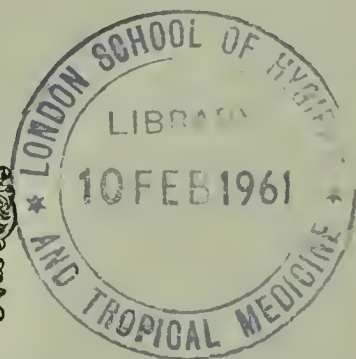


88
COUNTY BOROUGH OF BOOTLE



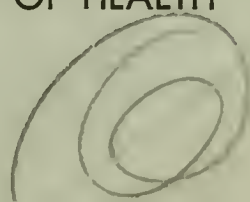
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ended 31st December, 1956

T. R. ROBERTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



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1957.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
FOREWORD	3
SECTION I. CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES ...	5
SECTION II. STAFF	6
SECTION III. VITAL STATISTICS	8
SECTION IV. COMPARISON OF STATISTICS WITH THOSE OF PREVIOUS YEARS ...	9
SECTION V. SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER PART III OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946	14
(i) <i>Care of Mothers and Young Children</i> ...	14
(ii) <i>Municipal Midwifery Service</i>	18
(iii) <i>Health Visiting</i>	19
(iv) <i>Home Nursing</i>	20
(v) <i>Vaccination and Immunisation</i>	21
(vi) <i>Ambulance Service</i>	23
(vii) <i>Prevention of Illness (Care and After-Care)</i>	24
(viii) <i>Domestic Help Service</i>	25
SECTION VI. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE	26
SECTION VII. DENTAL TREATMENT	31
SECTION VIII. COMMUNICABLE DISEASES	32
SECTION IX. TUBERCULOSIS	33
SECTION X. VENEREAL DISEASES	40
SECTION XI. BLIND WELFARE	41
SECTION XII. EPILEPSY AND CEREBRAL PALSY ...	42
SECTION XIII. SANITARY CONDITIONS	43
INDEX	72

FOREWORD

*The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the County Borough of Bootle.*

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report for the year 1956, being the eighty-fourth of the series, on the health of the people of the County Borough of Bootle.

The following figures have been extracted from the vital statistics given in the report:—

The total number of deaths from all causes was 703 as against 730 for the previous year. This gives a general death rate of 8·86 per thousand as against 9·34, and is the second lowest rate recorded. The death rate for England and Wales was 11·7. The total number of live births was 1,912, which is 285 more than the previous year. Of the total births, 655 were attended by the domiciliary midwives, being an increase of 113 over the previous year, and these placed a great strain on the domiciliary midwifery service. The birth rate was 24·09 per thousand as compared with 20·82 for 1955, and is considerably above that of England and Wales, which is 15·8 per thousand.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 54 as compared with 47 for the previous year. This gives an infant mortality rate of 28·24 per thousand live births, as compared with 28·8 for 1955, and is the lowest ever recorded. Of the 54 deaths of infants under one year of age, 34 died in the first month. Prematurity, birth injuries and congenital malformations accounted for 32 deaths in the first year of life. Of the total births, 119 or 6·2 per cent were premature. Premature birth always carries a risk of high infant mortality, and it is hoped that with increased medical supervision and greater ante-natal care the infant mortality rate will be lowered still further.

No deaths were certified during the year as being due to pregnancy or childbirth.

Nine deaths were ascribed to tuberculosis (all forms) as against 18 for the previous year; this gives a death rate of 0·11 per thousand as against 0·28 for 1955; and it is the first occasion on which the local death rate has fallen below that of England and Wales, which is 0·12 per thousand. Though the number of deaths were halved, there was an increase of 11 in the number of notifications. This is no doubt due to the better supervision and the following up of contacts and the increasing use of the Mass Miniature Radiography Service. On page 35 will be found the details of an intensive Survey carried out in the Borough in conjunction with the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board.

The arrangements made for the immunisation of children against diphtheria were the same as in previous years, 1,393 children receiving a complete course of inoculation, while 692 previously inoculated children received a reinforcing injection. At present it is estimated that 49·1 per cent. of the children under 5 years and 77·3 per cent. of the children aged 5—14 years have been protected by inoculation. Two cases of diphtheria

were notified during the year, but on investigation the disease was not confirmed in either case.

Increasing use is being made of the facilities available for the inoculation of young children against whooping cough, a total of 891 children being inoculated against this disease during the year.

During the year 869 children, of whom 767 were under 1 year, were vaccinated against smallpox. This is 40·1 per cent. of the live births, which is a decrease over the figure for the previous year, namely 46 per cent.

On page 23 appears a short account of the work of the Ambulance Service. During the year the service dealt with 11,483 calls, of which 1,381 occurred during the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., and the number of patients removed was 23,763. The work of this service has increased yearly since its inauguration and the figures for the year 1950 are given as a comparison, when 6,161 calls, of which 647 were night calls, were dealt with, and 12,351 patients removed.

There was a fall of 25 in the number of cases of dysentery notified during the year but measles showed an increase of 918 cases due to an epidemic which commenced in the Autumn of 1956 and continued into the early months of 1957, but there were no deaths registered to this disease. There was an increase of 117 in the number of cases of whooping cough notified. The increased incidence of cases commenced in the Spring and continued into the Autumn. One death was registered as being due to whooping cough. There were no deaths from poliomyelitis during the year but ten cases, of which eight were paralytic, were notified during the year. In only one case was the paralysis very severe. Circular 2/56 of the Ministry of Health providing for the vaccination of children against this disease was approved by the Council in March, 1956. Vaccination was offered to the parents of children born between 1947 and 1954, but only 119 children were registered. Vaccinations were suspended from July to November and at the end of the year only 18 children had received a full course of inoculations.

Satisfactory progress continues to be made with the clearance of sub-standard property. During the year one clearance order and two compulsory Purchase Orders were made and confirmed. The number of houses affected by these orders was 458, with a total population of 1,725. Since the commencement of the slum clearance programme, 766 houses with a population of 3,165 people have been represented as unfit.

On page 43 and onwards in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector will be found details of the work of the sanitary inspectorate with regard to the housing progress in the Borough and reports on the work carried out in connection with food factories, cafes and dining-rooms.

In conclusion, I should like to tender to you, and especially to your Health Committee and its Chairman, to the Town Clerk and the Chief Officials of the Corporation, my thanks for your encouragement and consideration, and to all the staff of the Department my grateful acknowledgment of their help and assistance.

T. R. ROBERTON,
Medical Officer of Health.

Section I

CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEE

HEALTH COMMITTEE

MR. ALDERMAN M. CONNOLLY, J.P. (Chairman)

MR. COUNCILLOR JONES, Deputy Chairman

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (ALDERMAN DR. I. HARRIS, J.P.)

MR. ALDERMAN CAIN.

MR. COUNCILLOR HANNAWAY.

MR. ALDERMAN T. CONNOLLY.

MR. COUNCILLOR HOUGHTON.

MR. ALDERMAN HEVEY.

MR. COUNCILLOR HUGHES.

COUNCILLOR MRS. BRAY.

COUNCILLOR MRS. JONES.

MR. COUNCILLOR CARROLL.

MR. COUNCILLOR MORLEY.

MR. COUNCILLOR DOOLEY.

MR. COUNCILLOR ROGERSON.

Co-opted Members:

Representatives of the Bootle Local Medical Committee:

DR. T. M. JONES and DR. J. S. WOOD, J.P.

Representative of the Bootle Local Dental Committee:

MR. J. D. CRIGHTON, J.P.

Representative of the Bootle Pharmaceutical Committee:

MR. L. D. PARRY.

Representative of the North Liverpool Hospital Management Committee:

MR. W. ROSS, J.P.

Section II

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health:

T. R. ROBERTON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

M. B. CLARKE, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officers of Health:

C. M. CONNOLLY, M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.

B. S. JARVIS, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Tuberculosis Officer (Joint Appointment):

S. KALINSKY, M.B., CH.B.

Senior Dental Officer:

D. N. MAXFIELD, L.D.S.
(from 1st April)

Assistant Dental Officer:

D. N. MAXFIELD, L.D.S.
(to 31st March)

Chief Administrative Assistant and Health Education Officer:

H. ALLEN LORD, B.A. (Admin.)

Superintendent Nursing Officer:

MISS C. M. JONES, S.R.N., S.C.M.,
H.V.CERT. (to 29th Feb.)

MISS E. C. HUGHES (from 2nd July)

Health Visitors (Tuberculosis):

MRS. I. CRAIG

MISS S. RECK

Visiting Specialists:

E. ALLAN, M.B., CH.B.,
Ophthalmic Surgeon

F. BAUER, F.R.C.S. EDIN., D.L.O.,
Aural Surgeon

F. C. DWYER, M.B., CH.B., F.R.C.S.,
M.CH.ORTH., Orthopaedic Surgeon

Consultant Obstetrician:

P. MALPAS, M.B., CH.M., F.R.C.S.,
F.R.C.O.G.

Public Analyst:

J. F. CLARK, M.SC., D.I.C., F.R.I.C.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

H. PARSONAGE, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

W. E. LEATHER

Public Health Inspectors:

H. G. BARNES

J. M. CANGLEY

A. DOWNIE

S. HESKETH (Meat and Foods
Inspector)

H. JONES

W. J. MASON

J. E. WILLIAMS

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

W. GLADDEN (from 19th March)

Municipal Midwives:

Mrs. E. H. HOY (Non-Medical
Supervisor)

MRS. G. E. ASHTON

MRS. E. C. BARTLETT

MRS. M. A. E. CHAMBERLAIN

MRS. M. W. DREWERY

MRS. L. LINACRE

MRS. G. A. NEWNES

MRS. C. K. DAVIES

MRS. R. SHAW

MISS D. SMITH

MRS. C. C. TAYLOR

MRS. W. WORTHINGTON

STAFF—*continued.*

Health Visitors:

*MRS. V. A. BENSON
MRS V. CAMPBELL (part-time)
MISS G. E. FOULKES (part-time)
MRS. P. FRASER (part-time)
(to 26th Oct.)
MISS E. GROGAN
MISS F. M. HUGHES
MRS. E. JOYCE (part-time)
MISS E. A. V. ROBINSON
MRS. K. RYAN
MISS E. L. THOMAS
*MISS D. STRICKLAND
MISS E. VERNON

Superintendent Home Nursing Service:

MRS. E. I. DODDS

Mental Health Officers:

MISS M. M. WINKLE,
S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
(Duly Authorised Officer)

MR. D. K. W. HIGGINS,
S.R.N., R.M.N., R.M.P.A.
(Duly Authorised Officer)

MR. J. W. HARPER (retired)
(Part-time Duly Authorised Officer)

Domestic Help Supervisor:

MRS. E. LANDER

**Combined Health Visiting and School Nursing duties.*

Clerks:

MR. K. W. BARKER (*Chief Clerk*)

MRS. E. ALLINSON

MISS K. BURGESS (to 19th Sept.)

MISS A. J. DWYER (from 15th Oct.)

MISS L. M. CARTER

MISS M. JOHNSON (*Welfare Foods*)

MISS D. M. LATIMER

MISS A. MAYFIELD

MRS. K. RILEY

MISS A. M. GIRVAN (*Clinic Assistant*)

MISS B. BURNETT (*Dental Attendant*)

MISS P. M. YATES (*Dental Attendant*)

Ambulance Supervisor:

MR. J. E. FARRELLY.

Section III

VITAL STATISTICS

Civilian Population (Registrar-General's estimate at mid-year 1956)	79,360
Population at Census of 1951	74,977
Area in Acres (exclusive of river bed)	3,054
Inhabited houses (end of 1956) according to rate books	20,445
Uninhabited houses (end of 1956) according to rate books	63
Live Births—Males 978, Females 934	1,912
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	24·09
Still Births—Males 19, Females 24	43
Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 total live and still births)	21·99
Total Deaths	703
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	8·86
Number of Maternal Deaths	—
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births)	—
Number of Deaths of Infants under the age of one year (Legitimate 53, Illegitimate 1).	54
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) (Legitimate 28·4, Illegitimate 20·83).	28·24
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2
Number of Deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis	8
Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis (per 1,000 population)	0·10
Number of Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	9
Death Rate from all forms of Tuberculosis (per 1,000 population)	0·11
Area Comparability factors—Births 0·93, Deaths 1·52.	
Calculated on these factors, the	
Death Rate (per 1,000 population) is 13·46.	
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) is 22·40.	

The Rateable Value of the Borough as at 1st April, 1956, was ... £871,470
The estimated product of a Penny Rate for 1956-57, was ... £3,370
In 1956-57 the General Rate was 20s. 10d. in the £.
The cost of the Health Services during 1956-57 was estimated at £60,812,
equivalent to a rate of 1s. 6·04d. in the £.

Section IV

COMPARISON OF STATISTICS WITH THOSE OF PREVIOUS YEARS

Population

The Census returns from the year 1881 show the population of the Borough as follows:—

1881	...	...	...	...	...	...	27,374
1891	...	...	...	...	...	...	49,217
1901	...	...	...	...	...	...	58,556
1911	...	...	...	...	...	...	69,876
1921	...	...	...	...	...	...	76,487
1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	76,800
1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	74,977

The Registrar-General's estimate of the civilian population at mid-year was 79,360. This estimate shows that the population of the Borough in 1956 was 1,210 more than in the summer of 1955

Marriages

The Superintendent Registrar states that the number of marriages during the year was 640, compared with 621 last year.

Births

During the year 1,912 live births were registered, representing a birth rate of 24·09 per 1,000 of the population, that for England and Wales being 15·8. There were 978 male and 934 female births. It will be noted that the birth rate is as usual well above the national rate.

BIRTH RATES, 1873—1956

<i>Period</i>	<i>BOOTLE</i>		<i>England & Wales</i>
	<i>Births</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000</i>
1873—1880	6,846	38·6	35·4
1881—1890	15,508	36·8	32·4
1891—1900	17,716	33·2	29·9
1901—1910	20,468	32·3	27·2
1911—1920	20,748	27·6	21·8
1921—1930	18,884	22·8	18·4
1931—1935	8,367	21·8	15·0
1936—1940	7,959	21·6	14·9
1941	1,199	22·8	14·2
1942	1,104	23·9	15·8
1943	1,327	26·5	16·5
1944	1,574	28·2	17·6
1945	1,429	24·4	16·1
1946	1,797	27·9	19·1
1947	2,022	30·3	20·5
1948	1,700	24·5	17·9
1949	1,541	22·0	16·7
1950	1,586	22·6	15·8
1951	1,554	20·8	15·5
1952	1,528	20·3	15·3
1953	1,596	20·9	15·5
1954	1,662	21·6	15·2
1955	1,627	20·82	15·0
1956	1,912	24·09	15·8

The illegitimate births (including stillbirths) numbered 57 and were 2·6 per cent. of the total live and still births. In 1955 the number was 56.

Deaths

The total number of deaths of Bootle residents during 1956 was 703, including 374 who died in hospital, i.e., 53·2 per cent. of the total deaths, compared with 51·6 per cent. in 1955. The deaths during the year are equivalent to a death rate of 8·86 per 1,000 as compared with 9·34 per 1,000 in 1955.

DEATH RATES, 1873—1956

<i>Period</i>	<i>BOOTLE</i>		<i>England & Wales</i>
	<i>Total Deaths</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000</i>
1873—1880	3,823	21·7	21·2
1881—1890	8,260	19·9	19·1
1891—1900	10,942	20·6	18·2
1901—1910	11,400	17·8	15·4
1911—1920	12,470	17·1	14·3
1921—1930	10,336	13·5	12·1
1931—1935	5,212	13·5	12·0
1936—1940	5,019	13·8	12·5
1941—1945	4,087	15·6	11·9
1946—1950	3,877	11·4	11·5
1951	901	12·0	12·5
1952	734	9·7	11·3
1953	602	7·89	11·4
1954	685	8·91	11·3
1955	730	9·34	11·7
1956	703	8·86	11·7

Causes of Death

The causes of death, classified according to age, are shown in the table on page 70.

Communicable Diseases.—Epidemic diseases, excluding tuberculosis, accounted for 64 deaths. Deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis numbered 7 (as compared with 5 during 1955), including two infants under one year.

Respiratory Diseases.—Pneumonia was responsible for 51 deaths, bronchitis for 49, and other respiratory diseases for 7, making the total deaths from respiratory diseases (excluding influenza and tuberculosis) 107. This amounts to 15·2 per cent. of the total deaths at all ages, as compared with 13·6 per cent. in 1955. Influenza was a cause of death in 1 case.

Cancer.—Cancer was registered as the cause of death in 123 cases, as compared with 131 in the preceding year. This represents a cancer death-rate of 1·55 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 1·68 during the year 1955.

Violent Causes.—There were 35 deaths from violent causes (including 8 from road traffic accidents and 4 from suicide).

Neo-Natal Mortality.—Thirty-four children died before reaching the age of one month, of whom 31 died during the first week of life. This gives a neo-natal mortality rate of 17·8 per 1,000 births. Prematurity was responsible for 19 of the neo-natal deaths.

Infant Mortality.—There were 54 deaths of infants under the age of one year compared with 47 in 1954. The infant mortality rate was 28·24 per 1,000 births, compared with 28·88 in 1955. The average rate for the previous five years was 35·6.

The rate of infant mortality in males was 33·74 and in females 22·48 per 1,000 live births.

Throughout England and Wales the rate of infant mortality was 23·8 per 1,000 births.

The rate of infant mortality in legitimate infants was 28·4, and in illegitimate infants the rate was 20·83.

The most important of the causes of infant death were: pneumonia, 8; congenital malformations, birth injuries and diseases peculiar to infancy, 13; premature birth, 19; accident, 2.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE—BOOTLE COMPARED WITH ENGLAND AND WALES

<i>Years</i>				<i>BOOTLE</i>	<i>England & Wales</i>
1901-05	...	...		166	138
1906-10	...	...		130	117
1911-15	...	...		133	110
1916-20	...	...		103	91
1921-25	...	...		91	76
1926-30	...	...		89	68
1931-35	...	...		87	62
1936-40	...	...		74	55
1941-45	...	...		77·2	49·8
1946	...	...	...	75	43
1947	...	...	...	91·5	41
1948	...	...	...	54·1	34
1949	...	...	...	54·5	32
1950	...	...	...	47·3	29·8
1951	...	...	...	39·9	29·6
1952	...	...	...	43·2	27·6
1953	...	...	...	28·8	26·8
1954	...	...	...	37·3	25·5
1955	...	...	...	28·8	24·9
1956	...	...	...	28·24	23·8

A tabular statement of the causes of death of children under the age of one year is given on page 71.

Deaths of Children aged 1-5 years.—There were 4 deaths of children aged 1 to 5 years, as compared with 4 in 1955. The causes of death were traffic accident 1; other accident 1; congenital malformation 1; other disease 1.

Maternal Mortality.—There were no deaths certified as due to pregnancy or childbirth during the year.

Inquests.—Inquests were held on 31 deaths.

Section V

SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER PART III OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

Care of Mothers and Young Children

Notification of Births

The number of births notified under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, was 972 live births and 12 stillbirths. Of these, 126 live and 2 stillbirths related to residents outside the Borough. The births to Bootle mothers, therefore, numbered 856, of which domiciliary births numbered 647 live births and 8 stillbirths, and hospital births numbered 199 live births and 2 stillbirths.

In addition there were 990 live births and 36 stillbirths to Bootle mothers notified from hospitals outside the Borough, and 2 domiciliary live births at addresses outside the borough.

Care of Premature Infants

Notification is made in cases where the birth weight is $5\frac{1}{2}$ -lbs. or less. In the case of domiciliary confinements every effort is made to secure a separate bedroom for mother and infant, and to provide a draught-proof cot with detachable lining, suitable bedding, hot water bottles and special feeding bottles; if any of the latter requirements are not available they can be provided on loan from the Health Department.

In every case of premature birth occurring at home, close liaison is observed between the midwifery staff and the health visitors. Special reference is made by the hospital authorities to the midwifery service when premature babies are discharged from hospital. Information is given as to the child's general condition and methods of feeding, special attention being paid to these cases by the staff. Before the midwife relinquishes responsibility, arrangements are made for the Health Visitor for the district to take over early supervision.

The following notifications of premature births to mothers ordinarily resident in the Borough were received:—

Hospital (including Bootle Maternity Home)	...	...	95
Home	...	...	22
Private Nursing Homes	...	...	2
			119

Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, 1926 to 1937

There were no cases of ophthalmia neonatorum notified during the year.

Ante-Natal Clinics

Four Ante-Natal Clinics were held each week until September when a new clinic was opened at St. Oswald's Church Hall, Netherton. During the year 574 new cases attended, corresponding to 30·0 per cent. of the total registered births; in addition, 151 cases carried over from the preceding year continued under supervision, and a total of 2,515 attendances was made, with an average of 11·43 patients per session. It should be noted that Bootle patients intending to enter Walton Hospital for confinement usually attend the Ante-Natal Clinic held at that Hospital.

Post-Natal Clinics

During the year 43 mothers attended for post-natal examination.

Infant Welfare Clinics

Seven infant clinic sessions were conducted weekly.

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

<i>Clinic</i>	<i>New Cases</i>			<i>Attendances</i>				
	<i>Under one year</i>	<i>One to four years</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Under one year</i>	<i>One to four years</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>No. of Sessions</i>	<i>Average attendance at clinic</i>
<i>Health Centre—</i>								
Monday afternoon ...	159	19	178	1075	111	1186	49	24·2
Wednesday afternoon	177	14	191	1782	112	1894	52	36·42
Thursday afternoon ...	138	11	149	1640	205	1845	52	35·38
<i>School Medical Office—</i>								
Tuesday afternoon ...	151	4	155	1225	51	1276	51	25·0
Thursday afternoon ...	144	10	154	1206	97	1303	52	25·0
<i>Simons Croft ...</i>	141	28	169	1127	253	1380	51	27·06
<i>St. Oswald's ...</i>	205	46	251	1805	343	2148	51	42·1
TOTALS ...	1115	132	1247	9860	1172	11032	358	30·81

Women's Club

In conjunction with the Bootle Personal Service Society, a Women's Club was opened at the Health Centre in 1952. The Club meets weekly and its activities include talks, educational films, instruction in handicrafts, and the making of children's clothes. Meetings are held in the Civil Defence Headquarters.

Supply of Welfare Foods

At the end of June, 1954, responsibility for the distribution of Welfare Foods passed from the Ministry of Food to Local Health Authorities. In addition to the existing arrangements at the Health Centre, School Medical Offices and Women's Voluntary Services, new Distribution Centres were opened at 8 Trinity Road and the Group Medical Centre, Simons Croft, Ford, and from December, 1955, a further centre was opened at St. Oswald's Church Hall.

Total issues during the year were as follows :—

<i>National Dried Milk (Tins)</i>	<i>Orange Juice (Bottles)</i>	<i>Cod Liver Oil (Bottles)</i>	<i>Vitamin Tablets (Packets)</i>
73,896	48,040	8,185	4,923

Problem Families

The Minister of Health has again requested that a brief description should be included in the Annual Report of the action taken by the Local Authority to prevent the breakdown of families.

In accordance with the suggestion in circular 78/50 issued jointly from the Home Office, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health, a co-ordinating committee was set up consisting of representatives of the Public Health, Children's, Social Services, Education, and Housing Departments, Probation Office, National Assistance Board, and the N.S.P.C.C., with the Medical Officer as Co-ordinating Officer. This Committee is convened when necessary to discuss a particular family where the difficulties affect a number of Departments, and continuous liaison is maintained with other interested parties in all cases.

As recommended in Ministry of Health Circular 27/54 the duty of visiting and supervising problem families has been placed on the Health Visitors, and it has been decided that each Health Visitor shall supervise the families in her own district. It was considered that this was more satisfactory than appointing a Health Visitor to supervise all the problem

families in the Borough. A register of these families has been prepared and case reports are kept. The number and type of case dealt with during the year may be summarised as follows :—

Bad management	...	...	...	...	10
Domestic difficulties and housing	...	...	...	...	4
Marital disharmony	...	...	...	...	9
Instability in one or both parents	...	...	...	...	5
Neglect or neglect with intemperance	...	...	...	...	5
Desertion	...	...	...	...	—
Illness and inability to cope	...	...	...	...	11
Illegitimacy and infidelity	...	...	...	...	5
Child in need of protection	...	...	...	...	1
					<u>50</u>

At the end of the year the cases were reviewed and the following table summarises the position :—

Some improvement	...	...	...	...	17
Children taken into care	...	...	...	...	2
Families removed from district	...	...	...	...	—
Still under supervision	...	...	...	...	31
					<u>50</u>

Material assistance is given in many cases and in this connection the Women's Voluntary Service and the Bootle Nursing Comforts and Aid in Sickness Trust have rendered valuable assistance.

Convalescent Home Provision

Convalescence for children under five years of age was arranged through the Liverpool Child Welfare Association (see below).

Care of Illegitimate Children

Special arrangements for the care of illegitimate children have been operating for some years. One of the Health Visitors is responsible for taking such action as is possible in the interests of the unmarried mother and her child.

Forty-six new cases were dealt with; these came to the notice of the Department from the following sources:—

Moral Welfare Agencies	...	...	...	...	8
Walton Hospital	...	...	...	...	13
Mill Road Hospital	...	...	...	...	1
Ormskirk Hospital	...	...	...	...	1
Ante-Natal Clinics	...	...	...	...	7
Municipal Midwives	...	...	...	...	1
Health Visitors	...	...	...	...	8
Other Authorities and Agencies	...	...	...	...	5
Birth notifications	...	...	...	...	2
					<u>46</u>

The work done in this connection comprised 315 visits to homes and 8 office interviews.

Four unmarried expectant mothers were admitted to Homes of the Moral Welfare Agencies at the expense of the Corporation. Two unmarried mothers subsequently married.

The final disposal of the surviving infants was as follows:—

Remained with Mother	...	...	...	36
Legal Adoption	...	...	...	1
Removed from District or deceased			...	2
Adoption pending	...	...	...	3
Boarded out	...	...	...	1
Kept in Home	...	...	...	1

The Liverpool Child Welfare Association

Representatives of this Association have attended clinics weekly to undertake on behalf of the Council arrangements for the supply and fitting of orthopaedic appliances prescribed by the medical staff, and the provision of clothing, fireguards and convalescent home treatment. During the year the Association dealt with 110 new cases (24 children under 5 years and 86 school children); 24 children were sent to Convalescent Homes, with an average stay for 2 children under five of 7·5 days and for 22 children over five years of 28·4 days. Two mothers with their babies were sent for convalescence to the Convalescent Home, Prestatyn.

In addition, Camp Holidays of one week's duration were arranged for 12 girls and 2 boys.

The staff visited 1,354 cases at home, and 1,159 cases were interviewed at the clinic.

Municipal Midwifery Service

Staff

The staff consists of a non-medical Supervisor and eleven midwives.

Notification of Intention to Practise

Twenty midwives gave notice during the year of their intention to practise midwifery in the Borough; 12 of these were municipal midwives, and 8 were midwives in the Bootle Maternity Home.

Cases attended by Municipal Midwives

Cases attended (a) as midwife	...	...	...	562
(b) as maternity nurse			...	32
Home Visits (ante-natal)	...	...	...	4,608
„ „ (puerperium)	...	...	...	11,101

In addition, the midwives made 2,148 home visits to cases discharged from hospital or maternity home before the fourteenth day as follows:—

		Patients discharged	Visits paid by midwives
Walton Hospital	...	580	1,528
Bootle Maternity Home	...	205	560
Liverpool Maternity Hospital...		6	42
Mill Road Hospital	...	2	18
		<u>793</u>	<u>2,148</u>

Ante-Natal Clinics

The municipal midwives hold ante-natal clinics at St. Oswald's and Simon's Croft. In addition, they assist at the doctor's clinics held each week at the Health Centre and School Medical Offices.

Of the total of 1,912 live and still births to Bootle mothers the municipal midwives attended 655 births (34·3 per cent.), and the remaining births took place in the following institutions:—

Walton Hospital	...	...	...	...	657
Liverpool Maternity Hospital	...	...	...	...	199
Bootle Maternity Home	...	...	...	...	229
Other Hospitals	...	...	...	...	170
Private Residences, etc.	...	...	...	...	2

(These figures include 38 stillbirths). 1257

In the case of hospital confinements a municipal midwife accompanies each patient in the ambulance to the hospital, in order to safeguard the patient in labour. These journeys numbered 905 during the year.

Patients engage the services of the midwife nearest to their own homes, and the midwife is responsible for their ante-natal care from the date of booking.

Gas and Air Analgesia

Twelve municipal midwives are qualified to administer gas-air analgesia; five sets of apparatus are in use, which are kept at the Ambulance Station and conveyed by ambulance to the patient's home when required.

During the year, gas-air analgesia was given in 548 cases; Pethidine was administered in 51 cases.

Medical Aid

The services of medical practitioners were requested in 120 domiciliary maternity cases during the year. In 104 cases the medical practitioners had arranged to provide the patient with maternity medical services under the National Health Service. In the remaining 16 cases the Local Authority paid the fees of the practitioners.

Transport

The Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives receives a car allowance based on mileage. Municipal midwives receive a travelling allowance of 13s. 0d. per month. During the night, if public service vehicles are not available, transport is provided from the Ambulance Depot.

Health Visiting

Home Visitation

The staff paid 19,255 home visits, including 7,282 visits to infants under one year, and 9,360 visits to children aged from one to four years.

Home Visits to Expectant Mothers

The Health Visitors paid 586 home visits to expectant mothers to advise them on general and personal hygiene, with a view to promoting normal childbirth.

Staff

The establishment provides for one Superintendent Nursing Officer and ten full-time health visitors, of whom one is mainly responsible for the care of unmarried mothers and their children. At the end of the year eleven health visitors (three part-time) were employed.

Because of the difficulty of obtaining health visitors, the Committee in November, 1948, approved of a scheme for the engagement of student health visitors who would attend a whole-time course of training at the Liverpool University School of Hygiene and would receive during the first year three-quarters of the minimum salary of a health visitor. After the period of training they would return to the service of the Authority for the remainder of the twelve months, and if successful in obtaining the Health Visitor's Certificate would, if required, give a further twelve months' service to the Authority. One student was engaged during the year.

Home Nursing*Premises*

The Home Nursing Service continued to be administered from the headquarters at 81 Balliol Road.

Staff

All the staff were non-resident. The establishment provides for a Superintendent and 10 District Nurses. At the end of the year the staff consisted of the Superintendent, 3 full-time State Registered Nurses (one male) ; 3 part-time State Registered Nurses ; 2 full-time State Enrolled Assistant Nurses, 1 part-time State Enrolled Assistant Nurse, and 2 non-enrolled Assistant Nurses (one part-time).

Visits

During the year 35,031 visits were paid to 1,516 patients, including 216 cases carried over from 1955.

Transport

The Home Nurses are granted a cycle allowance of 13s. per month.

Developments

One of the most notable developments in the Home Nursing Service has been the increasing number of injections which the nurses are required to give on the instructions of the local general practitioners. Out of a total of 1,516 patients dealt with during the year, 962 (or 63·45%) required injections. The following table gives further details of this branch of the work:—

Classification of Injections given to Patients during 1956

	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Injections</i>
Insulin	48	9,049
Streptomycin	42	1,462
Penicillin	575	4,132
Anahaemin	56	1,681
Other injections including Mersalyl and Morphia ...	241	6,243

Apart from injections, the work of the Home Nurses may be divided between acute medical, chronic medical (including a large number of cardiac cases), surgical (mostly post-operative dressings), geriatric, and miscellaneous. A substantial number of cancer cases are now being visited by the Home Nurses, mainly patients who have received radium treatment in hospitals and who require dressings on their return home.

There has been an increase in the number of geriatric (general nursing) and cancer cases dealt with during the year.

No special provision is made for the home nursing of sick children, but 158 (or 10·4%) of the patients dealt with were children under 5, while 105 (or 6%) were children between 5 and 15 years. The former group required mostly dressings after minor operations, care during bronchitis, etc.

The Council have adopted a scheme for sponsoring the training of District Nurses by the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, each trainee nominated by the Authority to be required to give twelve months' service with the Council as District Nurse after completing training. It has not yet been possible to put the scheme into operation.

Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination

During the year vaccination continued to be carried out by general practitioners and by the Local Health Authority's medical staff. The numbers dealt with were as follows:—

By general practitioners	...	...	...	447
By Local Health Authority's staff	...	...	...	422

The number of children under one year vaccinated was 767 (368 by general practitioners and 399 by the medical staff of the Department). This represents 40·1 per cent. of the live births during the year.

Immunisation

During 1932 a scheme was inaugurated whereby a specific clinic appointment for immunisation against diphtheria is made to parents when their children reach the age of nine months. During the year a total of 1,393 children completed the series of inoculations. This compares with 1,113 children inoculated in 1955. A reinforcing inoculation was given to 692 previously inoculated children. The present position is that 49·1 per cent. of children under five years of age, and 77·3 per cent. of children between the ages of five and fifteen years, have been protected against this disease.

Parents are advised that immunisation can be carried out either by their own doctor or by the Local Health Authority's medical staff, and it is now possible to offer immunisation at all the Infant Welfare Clinics.

The following table shows the number of children completing the series of inoculations since the inauguration of the scheme.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Age at date of inoculation	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	Total
Under one year ...	2	1	4	4	48	53	94	554	679	421	277	374	402	444	489	484	646	Under five years — 3732
1 and under 2 years	43	45	196	314	459	720	649	417	320	332	410	399	271	253	291	207	271	
2 and under 3 years	46	64	239	250	157	154	81	48	50	62	43	35	51	57	47	37	50	
3 and under 4 years	29	108	208	156	74	91	60	36	42	32	26	25	41	36	45	44	36	
4 and under 5 years	22	76	209	193	100	52	64	37	36	49	38	10	30	30	40	35	31	
5 and under 6 years	15	213	405	338	221	211	352	187	206	232	225	12	238	206	220	220	239	5-9 years — 6124
6 and under 7 years	4	440	290	135	71	57	79	38	56	36	40	4	55	103	81	71	110	
7 and under 8 years	6	115	135	56	16	11	10	1	2	5	6	1	15	20	9	12	9	
8 and under 9 years	3	44	101	52	9	6	5	—	—	2	1	1	6	1	1	3	—	
9 and under 10 yrs.	—	28	52	41	5	5	4	1	4	3	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	
10 and under 11 yrs.	1	45	90	52	4	2	5	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	2	—	1	10-14 years — 4858
11 and under 12 yrs.	1	50	56	45	3	2	3	2	—	—	—	2	1	1	2	—	—	
12 and under 13 yrs.	—	38	80	38	—	3	6	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	
13 and under 14 yrs.	—	36	96	22	4	—	2	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
14 and under 15 yrs.	—	30	58	15	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
15 years and over	—	9	41	2	1	2	5	—	1	2	3	5	1	1	—	—	1	6,580
TOTALS ...	172	1342	2260	1713	1172	1369	1420	1322	1399	1180	1073	871	1113	1152	1229	1113	1394	21,294

Immunisation against Whooping Cough

In November, 1952, the Medical Officer of Health recommended the Health Committee to provide facilities for the immunisation of young children against whooping cough. This recommendation was adopted and came into operation the following year. During 1956, the number of children who received the full course of inoculations was as follows:

By General Practitioners	...	...	...	248
By the Local Authority's Staff	...	...	...	643

In a number of cases these inoculations were combined with the diphtheria inoculations.

Ambulance Service

Administration

The Ambulance Service is under the control of the Medical Officer of Health.

Mutual Aid

Arrangements with the Lancashire County Council and the Liverpool City Council for mutual aid in cases of emergency have been continued.

Vehicles

The vehicles now in use comprise a Daimler ambulance, two Bedford chassis with Lomas bodies, and two Austin ambulances, together with an Austin Ambulance sitting case car which was delivered in July to replace the Chrysler saloon.

During the year the number of calls dealt with was as follows:—

	Day 7 a.m.—11 p.m.	Night 11 p.m.—7 a.m.
Hospital Transfers ...	4670	137
Accidents (a) Docks ...	394	64
(b) Elsewhere	1141	195
Sickness and Maternity...	2489	511
Removals on behalf of Lancs. C.C. and L'pool	29	2
Mental Health Service ...	489	11
Others	890	461
	10,102	1381

In 1955 the comparative figures were 9,009 day calls and 1,217 night calls.

The number of patients in the above categories removed during the year was 23,763, as against 22,416 last year.

In addition, 149 cases of infectious disease were removed to hospital by the ambulance allocated to this work, which also conveyed 155 tuberculous patients for X-ray examination, re-fills, etc.

Prevention of Illness (Care and After-Care)

Tuberculosis

The Health Committee has appointed a Care-Sub-Committee to deal with the special problems of tuberculous patients in the home. Assistance is given in providing nursing requisites, sputum flasks, etc. Where the housing accommodation is overcrowded or unsuitable, representations are made by the Medical Officer of Health to the Housing Committee so that priority can be given to such cases.

B.C.G. Vaccination

The approval of the Ministry of Health has been obtained to an amendment of the Council's proposals under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, to permit the Council to provide for B.C.G. vaccination in suitable cases for persons in contact with tuberculous infection. During the year 170 children were vaccinated

Mental Illness or Defectiveness

Two whole-time and one part-time mental health workers are engaged, and they made 70 pre-care and 562 after-care visits during the year.

Training of Defectives

By arrangement with the Lancashire County Council, mental defectives under supervision attend the Occupation Centre, Waterloo. Eleven children were attending the Centre at the end of 1956. Eight children are on the waiting list for admission, but there is little prospect of these and other suitable cases being admitted in the near future. It is to be regretted that more Occupation Centre accommodation is not available for Bootle children, as this would relieve the strain and tension on the mothers and provide training for young mental defectives. The Health Committee have this matter under consideration, and it is anticipated that a scheme for the erection of a new Occupation Centre in the Borough will be completed in the near future.

Provision of Sick-room Equipment

Articles of sick-room equipment are stored at the headquarters of the Home Nursing Service and are issued on loan. A deposit is requested and is refunded when the articles are returned in good condition.

Convalescence

In accordance with Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, convalescence not involving medical treatment was arranged for patients recommended by general practitioners. A period of convalescence was approved by the Health Committee for 11 patients.

Health Education

General Publicity

The use of the Exhibition Service of the Central Council for Health Education has been continued during the year and various topics displayed on the exhibition stand at the Health Centre. In addition, other posters and leaflets issued by the Central Council have been utilised.

Domestic Help Service

During the year the equivalent of 15 full-time workers has been engaged, together with the supervisor, and 99 new cases received assistance; these with 88 cases carried over from 1955 made a total of 187 cases dealt with during the year.

The following is a classification of the cases assisted:—

Type of Case	Households provided with help	No. of Hours worked
(a) Tuberculosis ...	12	2,110
(b) Maternity	20	963
(c) Chronic Sick including aged and infirm	128	24,575
(d) Others	27	1,250
	187	28,898

The scale of assessment recommended by the Association of Municipal Corporations has been applied, but this was amended in April, 1954, the most important alteration being an increase in personal allowances. Any householder utilising the Service has a right to appeal against the assessment in cases where it is felt that the scale would impose undue hardship, and these appeals are dealt with by the Health Committee.

Section VI

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

The Mental Health Section of the Department continued throughout the year to fulfil all demands in connection with:—

1. The visitation, certification and removal of persons of unsound mind to mental hospitals in accordance with the Lunacy Act, 1890.
2. The visitation and subsequent arrangements for the admission and treatment of "voluntary" patients in mental hospitals as provided for under the Mental Treatment Act, 1930.
3. The domiciliary after-care and welfare of patients discharged from mental hospitals and recommended for such care.
4. The domiciliary supervision of all notified cases of mental deficiency, the home visitation and welfare of mental defectives under guardianship, and the detailed arrangements arising in connection with the removal of those mental defectives whom it is found necessary to admit to institutions or colonies.

Details of the service are as follows:—

1. Administration

- (a) The Mental Health Sub-Committee consists of 6 members of the Health Committee. The work of this Sub-Committee has been amalgamated into the general work of the Health Committee which meets monthly.
- (b) *Staff.*—The medical direction of the service is the responsibility of the Medical Officer of Health, and by arrangement with the Liverpool City Council the services of a specialist medical officer with experience in both mental illness and mental defectiveness are available. Two mental health workers are engaged, one male and one female, and these have been designated "Duly Authorised Officers." The Duly Authorised Officers are available for duty outside office hours and undertake full stand-by for night and week-end duty if required. They are provided with a telephone, and the Police Department and the medical practitioners are supplied with information to enable them to contact the officer on duty. The services of a retired Duly Authorised Officer have been retained for part-time relief and stand-by duty.
- (c) *Co-ordination with Regional Hospital Board and Hospital Management Committee.*—By arrangement with the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, the services of one or more specialist medical officers are available in a consultative capacity in connection with the ascertainment of mental defectives.

The supervision of patients on trial or on licence from Mental Hospitals and Institutions for Mental Defectives is carried out on behalf of the Hospitals and Institutions by the Mental Health Workers of the local authority.

- (d) No duties have been delegated to voluntary associations.
- (e) No arrangements have been initiated for the training of additional Mental Health Workers.

2. Account of Work undertaken in the Community

- (a) *National Health Service Act, 1946, Sec. 28: Prevention, Care and After-Care.*—During the year the number of pre-care visits made was 70, and for after-care purposes following up patients discharged from hospitals, 562 visits. Two female senile dementia patients were removed to Newsham Hospital and six male senile dementia patients were removed to Westminster House. Arrangements were made for two patients to attend Bootle Hospital Psychiatric Clinic and one to Walton Hospital.

- (b) *Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890—1930.—Under the Lunacy Act, 1890, as amended by the National Health Service Act, 1946:—*

40 patients were removed to Sefton Mental Hospital for observation.

43 patients were removed to Ormskirk Mental Hospital for observation.

1 patient was removed to Whiston Hospital for observation.

5 patients were accompanied to Winwick Hospital as voluntary patients.

5 patients were accompanied to Rainhill Hospital as voluntary patients.

3 patients were accompanied to Ormskirk Hospital as voluntary patients.

10 patients were certified at Sefton Mental Hospital and removed to Winwick Hospital.

13 patients were certified at Ormskirk Mental Hospital and removed to Winwick Hospital.

12 patients were brought before a magistrate for certification purposes at Sefton Mental Hospital and discharged.

In addition to the above:—

2 patients were accompanied home from Sefton Mental Hospital.

1 patient was accompanied home from Ormskirk Mental Hospital.

1 patient was accompanied home from the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Shrewsbury.

1 patient was removed from Claybury Mental Hospital, Essex, and accompanied to Winwick Hospital.

1 patient was accompanied to Newsham Hospital.

1 patient was accompanied home from Winwick Hospital.

An inquest was attended at Ormskirk Hospital.

Investigations for mental disorder, apart from removals, were carried out in respect of 73 persons reported to the Service.

(c) *Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913—1938.*

- (i) Twelve home reports were made in respect of patients on licence from Institutions and 25 home reports for re-certification purposes. Twenty-two home reports were submitted to various institutions regarding holiday licences for defectives.
- (ii) During the year 15 mental defectives were ascertained and found subject to be dealt with. The total number of defectives on the register at the end of the year was 252.

In Institutions	...	...	...	109
Under Guardianship	...	...	...	3
Patients under statutory supervision				130
Patients under voluntary supervision				10

Five defectives were on the waiting list for institutional care at the end of the year.

- (iii) Two guardianship cases domiciled in Liverpool are supervised by officers of the Liverpool Mental Health Service by arrangement, as suggested by the Minister of Health. The one guardianship case in the Borough is visited at intervals for supervision purposes.
- (iv) Six hundred and fifty-one domiciliary visits were made during the year for supervision purposes to statutory and voluntary mentally handicapped persons living within the Borough.
- (v) Two defective persons were escorted on separate occasions from Bootle Magistrates Court to Calderstones Hospital under Sec. 8.1.B. of the Mental Deficiency Act. One Defective person was escorted from Bootle Juvenile Court to Brockhall Hospital under Sec. 8.1.B. of the Mental Deficiency Act.
One defective person was accompanied for X-ray of chest.
- (vi) Eleven mentally handicapped children are attending the Waterloo Occupation Centre by arrangement with the Lancashire County Council. Eight children are already on the waiting list for admission; a number of others are probably suitable for admission but application has not been made because of the unlikelihood of their admission.
- (vii) *Short Stay Homes.*—During the year three children were accommodated for periods of one or two weeks.

3. Procedure

Patients may be dealt with as follows :—

1. Voluntary patients are admitted to hospital via the psychiatric clinics and where necessary are accompanied by the Mental Health Workers.
2. Temporary treatment without certification is another method by which patients can be dealt with under the Mental Treatment Act, 1930, where the patient for the time being is incapable of expressing himself as willing or unwilling to receive treatment. It is seldom used in this area.
3. Patients removed by the Duly Authorised Officer on a Three Day Order, to a hospital designated for the purposes of Section 20 of the Lunacy Act, are quite frequently brought before a magistrate and a doctor called in by him to assist him, within the three days, in the presence of the Duly Authorised Officer. They are then either certified and removed to the mental hospital stated in the Order, or they are discharged. They may otherwise be given the option of receiving treatment voluntarily. Alternatively if the patient requires a further period of observation, the Three Day Order may be extended by the Medical Officer of the hospital for a further period of 14 days. Before this period has expired, the patient must be either certified, accepted as a voluntary patient, or discharged. There is no legal authority for detention after the expiration of this period.
4. Aged persons suffering from mental disturbances are sometimes difficult to deal with, as the present day trend is not to deal with them under the Lunacy Act, but to remove them to wards in a hospital specially allocated for cases of senile dementia, and for these there is unfortunately usually a long waiting list.

4. Some Typical Cases

Patient "A". This girl was first brought to our notice at the age of 14 years, when we were informed by her doctor that she had threatened to take her life and the Police had to be called in on account of her behaviour. She was removed to a Mental Hospital for observation purposes and remained there for two months as a voluntary patient. She was found to be mentally sub-normal and was ascertained as being mentally defective. She was therefore visited frequently for supervision and after-care but became increasingly difficult to cope with at home on account of her behaviour and has had to be removed to a Mental Hospital on four separate occasions. The last time she had to be certified and remained in hospital from June, 1956, to February, 1957, when she was taken out "relieved" by relatives. Since then we have had no complaints of further behaviour troubles.

Patient "B" is a middle-aged widow who lives alone and who has been under the supervision of the Mental Health Welfare Officer for 3—4 years because of her "eccentric" behaviour at times. On several occasions neighbours or the Police have reported to us that she has caused minor disturbances, etc., but on being interviewed she can always give quite a good account of herself. Although she does at times obviously suffer from some delusions, she has only been removed to hospital for observation on one occasion and she then remained for three months as a voluntary patient. At other times she has been warned not to cause any annoyance to her neighbours, and she has co-operated quite well and has welcomed our visits.

Patient "C" is a married man of 49 years. He has had a number of breakdowns during the last few years, his illness being of the agitated depressive type. When well, he works for a firm where he has been employed for most of his life and where he is well thought of. During the year he was visited and it was noticed that his mental condition was rapidly deteriorating. He refused to attend a clinic or to enter hospital as a voluntary patient, and it was eventually necessary, with the concurrence of his doctor, to remove him to a mental Hospital under an Order. After a stay of three months he was discharged and, when visited, expressed gratitude to us and to the hospital for the help he had received. He is now working and attends a clinic for a "check-up" at regular intervals.

Patient "D" is a married man of 39 years. He was discharged from the Services ten years ago with an anxiety neurosis, but managed to cope successfully until five years ago, when he entered hospital as a voluntary patient. He has since been a patient on two other occasions and when discharged has always found employment quickly and he is a conscientious worker. A difficulty is that the work he obtains is often too hard and responsible for him, but as he has a large family he feels that he must earn as much as possible when he is fit. He is at present in hospital and the matter has been discussed with his wife who appreciates that his outlook would be better if he took a less onerous position on his discharge, even though he would be financially rather restricted.

Section VII

DENTAL TREATMENT OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

The following report has been supplied by the Dental Officer:—

(a) PATIENTS PROVIDED WITH DENTAL CARE

	<i>Examined</i>	<i>Needing Treatment</i>	<i>Treated</i>	<i>Made Dentally Fit</i>
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	253	250	236	225
Children under Five	123	123	120	115

(b) FORMS OF DENTAL TREATMENT PROVIDED

	<i>Ex-trac-tions</i>	<i>Anaesthetics</i>		<i>Fill-ings</i>	<i>Scal-ings or Scal-ing & Gum Treat-ment</i>	<i>Silver Nitrate Treat-ment</i>	<i>Dres-sings</i>	<i>Radio-graphs</i>	<i>Dentures Provided</i>	
		<i>Local</i>	<i>Gen-eral</i>						<i>Com-plete</i>	<i>Par-tial</i>
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	671	57	51	40	33	—	—	1	136	43
Children under Five	167	—	111	7	—	—	—	—	—	—

X-Ray Examinations.—Facilities for X-ray examinations are available at the Liverpool Dental Hospital.

Section VIII

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year is summarised as follows:—

			Cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Deaths
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	52	10	—
Diphtheria	...	...	2 (2)	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	8	1	—
Measles	...	...	1417 (11)	31	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	334 (1)	21	1
Infant Diarrhoea (under two years) voluntarily notifiable			1	1	2
Pneumonia	...	...	27	8	51
Meningococcal Infections	...	...	7 (5)	7	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	3	1	—
Dysentery	...	...	11	4	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	6	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	10	10	—
Malaria	...	...	—	—	—
*Tuberculosis—					
(a) Pulmonary	...	...	99	—	8
(b) Non-Pulmonary	...	...	2	—	1

*Primary notifications.

(The totals in brackets give number of cases where diagnosis was not confirmed).

Food Poisoning.—Six cases of food poisoning were notified to the Department.

Food poisoning notifications (corrected) were returned to the Registrar General as follows:—

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
1	—	—	5	6

Outbreaks due to Identified Agents:—

Total outbreaks ... Nil. Total cases ... Nil.

Outbreaks of Undiscovered Cause:—

Total outbreaks ... Nil. Total cases ... Nil.

Single Cases:—

*Agents identified ... 2 Unknown cause ... 4 Total 6

**Typhi murium* 2

Section IX

TUBERCULOSIS

Notification Register.—The number of patients on the register at 31st December, 1956, totalled 879. The patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis included 388 adult males, 409 adult females, 17 male children, and 18 female children (total 832). The patients suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis included 16 adult males, 20 adult females, 5 male children, and 6 female children (total 47).

Incidence.—The number of new cases notified during the year under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930, was 101 (99 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary), as compared with 96 for the previous year. Notifications during recent years were as follows:—

Year							Tuberculosis Notifications
1946	...	...	...	...	...	...	190
1947	...	...	...	...	...	...	152
1948	...	...	...	...	...	...	167
1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	181
1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	165
1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	197*
1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	181
1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	149
1954	...	...	...	...	...	...	138
1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	96
1956	...	...	...	...	...	...	101

Mortality.—The number of deaths caused by tuberculosis during the year was 9 amounting to 1·28 per cent. of the deaths from all causes and giving a death-rate from this cause of 0·11 per 1,000 of the population, as against 0·23 last year.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Incidence.—Ninety-nine new cases suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1956, an increase of 11 compared with the previous year. The numbers notified during the past few years were as follows:—

Year							Notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis
1946	...	...	...	...	...	...	161
1947	...	...	...	...	...	...	123
1948	...	...	...	...	...	...	137
1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	164
1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	145
1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	180*
1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	163
1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	138
1954	...	...	...	...	...	...	129
1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	88
1956	...	...	...	...	...	...	99

*Includes 15 Netherton cases transferred consequent upon extension of Borough boundaries.

Mortality.—During the year 8 deaths were certified to be due to pulmonary tuberculosis, representing a rate of 0·10 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 0·20 in 1955, 0·26 in 1954, 0·26 in 1953, 0·42 in 1952, 0·49 in 1951, 0·84 in 1950. There were 5 deaths among males and 3 among females.

Chest Clinic.—During the year the Tuberculosis Officer examined 768 patients newly referred. Attention continued to be paid to securing the attendance for examination of contacts of notified cases, and 758 tuberculin tests were made. The Tuberculosis Visitors made 2,594 visits to homes of tuberculosis patients.

During the year 170 children received B.C.G. vaccination.

The number of contacts examined and the number of home visits has shown a considerable increase during the past few years, largely due to the appointment of an additional Tuberculosis Visitor towards the end of 1950. The following table shows this comparison:—

Year				Contacts examined		Home Visits	
1948	...	...	...	75	...	...	553
1949	...	...	...	140	...	...	516
1950	...	...	...	263	...	...	470
1951	...	...	...	504	...	...	2,035
1952	...	...	...	463	...	...	2,274
1953	...	...	...	577	...	...	2,397
1954	...	...	...	757	...	...	2,442
1955	...	...	...	748	...	...	2,305
1956	...	...	...	949	...	...	2,594

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Incidence.—During the year 2 new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, as compared with 8 in 1955.

Mortality.—One death was certified to be due to non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.—There was no occasion to take action under the above Regulations relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

Public Health Act, 1936: Section 172.—No action was taken under this Section dealing with the compulsory removal of cases of tuberculosis to hospital.

Preventive, Care and After-Care Services

- (i) *Ascertainment of Contacts.*—In every case, after receipt of a notification, a visit is paid to the home with the object of tracing contacts and arrangements are made for their examination at the Chest Clinic. In the case of children under 15, the Chest Physician examines with a view to ascertaining whether B.C.G. Vaccination should be given. Adults are referred to Walton Hospital for a 5" x 4" film, which is then forwarded to the Chest Physician.

In this connection special clinics are held twice weekly for children who are contacts of notified and known cases, or are referred to the Chest Clinic by general practitioners or the medical staff of the Department. By this means the children are kept separate from any known cases of tuberculosis while attending the Clinic.

The number of contacts examined in relation to the number of notified cases in recent years is as follows:—

Year	Cases Notified (Pulmonary)	Contacts examined
1950	145	263
1951	180	504
1952	163	463
1953	138	577
1954	129	757
1955	88	748
1956	99	949

- (ii) *Employment of Tuberculosis Patients.*—About one-third of the cases on the register are known to be working, but in the main, these are quiescent cases, as it is very difficult for patients with a positive sputum to obtain employment (unless they fail to disclose this information when applying for work). There is a local branch of Remploy in the Borough and some of the patients have found employment there. The patients who are working are kept under observation, and generally speaking, they are found able to maintain themselves in employment. It seems likely that this is due to the fact that owing to the financial help now obtainable through the National Assistance Board, patients are not as anxious as formerly to return to work before they are sufficiently recovered to undertake full employment. Another factor bearing on this matter is the number of cases which are now treated in the early stages of the disease, these cases being found through efficient contact tracing and the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit.
- (iii) *Notifications after Death.*—In every case where notification is received after the death of the patient, the contacts are traced and urged to attend for examination.
- (iv) *Ascertainment and Follow-Up of Early Cases among Children.*—The Mass Miniature Radiography Unit visits the schools in the Borough from time to time, and in addition, the general practitioners are very co-operative in referring children to the Chest Clinic. Probably 50 per cent. of the children examined are sent in by the general practitioners, the remainder being sent by the Medical Staff of the Department. In all cases of a primary lesion in children, home contacts are traced and arrangements made for their examination.

Mass Miniature Radiography

An intensive Survey was carried out in the Borough from September, 1955, to February, 1956, and the following is an extract from a report prepared by Dr. J. A. Rushworth, Assistant Senior Medical Officer (Tuberculosis) of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board:—

“The County Borough of Bootle was selected because of:—

(1) Its previous tuberculosis history, with respect to both high incidence and mortality rates.

(2) Its concentrated compact urban area.

(3) Its size (population 76,000; X-rayable population 61,000).

Bootle is essentially a heavy industrial township, ship repairing and engineering establishments figuring prominently amongst its industries. In addition the dormitory suburb of Netherton now being developed contributes several light engineering works.

The object of the Survey was to determine the reservoir of pulmonary tuberculosis existing in the community. It was realised at the outset that this could only be done accurately if the percentage response to examination was high.

In an effort to produce a maximum response all the previously proved methods of propaganda and examination were employed. It was regarded as absolutely essential that the service be brought to the public, and the idea of a DOOR-TO-DOOR STREET SURVEY was conceived. In fact, almost every street in the County Borough of Bootle was visited and practically every home. A novel feature was the introduction of an entirely self-powered mobile office (to wit, a converted single decker bus), in which the interviewing by the clerks was carried out at the examinees' doorstep. The combination of the X-ray van, generator and mobile office meant that there was virtually no place in the area that was not accessible to examination.

A most happy feature of the Survey was the splendid co-operation of all concerned, the Mass X-ray Units, Local Government and Chest Clinic staffs all working together as a single team.

Particular mention must be made of the ladies of the Bootle Branch of the Women's Voluntary Service who gave unstintingly of their time and efforts. The W.V.S., having an intimate knowledge of the geography of the district and of its people, rendered invaluable assistance in carrying out the bulk of the door-to-door canvassing.

Propaganda.—Various methods were employed both before the start of the Survey and during its operation to bring it to the notice of the public. Leaflets giving full details were displayed in public offices in the town, and similar leaflets were distributed to the schools, Grammar, Secondary Modern and Primary, in order that the pupils could take them home to their parents. The Survey was well advertised through the good offices of the two local newspapers. The N.A.P.T. film “Also Coming Shortly” was exhibited at several of the Town's cinemas, and according to all reports was very well received.

Leaflets were left in the foyers of the cinemas. The General Practitioners in the Borough were circulated, and invited to send as many persons as possible on their panel lists to the Open Sessions. Explanatory talks were also given to Women's Organisations before the start of the Survey. During the street-to-street X-ray sessions the loudspeaker was very much in evidence. Door-to-door canvassing was undertaken by the ladies of the Bootle branch of the W.V.S.

Response from the various sections of the Community

Industry.—Response remained much the same as in 1954.

Schools.—Response from this group was good, and with very few exceptions all the children over the age of 11 at the Grammar Schools and Secondary Modern Schools in the Borough came for X-ray examination.

Open Sessions.—The response at the Open Sessions, after a reasonably good start tailed off towards the middle of the Survey, until finally the Unit was dependent upon General Practitioner referrals to make this session an economic project. As the work of the street-to-street Unit became more and more well known many of the inhabitants stated that they preferred to wait until they had a personal visit in their own street or road rather than go to the Open Session Centre, which, due to shortage of suitable sites in the town, was not in an ideal situation to attract passersby.

Street-to-Street.—It was by the street-to-street method of examination that it was hoped to X-ray the biggest percentage of the population of the town. For this purpose, a single decker bus was converted to a mobile office by removing all the seats and fitting a counter to accommodate three of the Unit clerical staff.

The first sessions on the streets took place in fine weather on the morning of the 7th September, 1955, and in the space of ninety minutes ninety-two persons had volunteered to be X-rayed. This start was regarded as a good omen, and the response continued to be satisfactory until weather conditions deteriorated.

Several sessions were held in the shopping centres in the town with a good response

Summary of Statistics

Total number of Examinees	...	22,340
(a) Bootle residents	... ..	13,901 (23% response)
(b) Non-Bootle residents	... ..	8,439

The percentage response of Bootle residents by comparison with other comprehensive surveys may appear to be small. The following features must, however, be given due consideration:—

(1) A large percentage of the Bootle population are gainfully employed in the City of Liverpool, and in consequence were not available for examination.

(2) An object of the Survey was to X-ray groups of population that had hitherto not been X-rayed.

(3) Compared with the previous Survey in 1954, the response shows considerable improvement. 5,934 persons were X-rayed in 1954 during a three months period.

Conclusions.—Despite the low percentage response of Bootle residents, the findings of the Survey show that it has been extremely worthwhile.

In particular, it is worthy of note that the method of street-to-street and house-to-house Survey has proved its value as a case-finding method, no less than 4·92 per thousand cases of tuberculous disease requiring either immediate treatment or close clinic supervision being detected amongst Bootle residents. It is also interesting to note that the majority of examinees in this group had not previously been X-rayed and that a high incidence of unilateral disease was detected."

TUBERCULOSIS MORTALITY, BOOTLE AND ENGLAND AND WALES, 1926—1956

<i>Year</i>	<i>Deaths from Tuberculosis (All Forms) per 1,000 population</i>	
	<i>BOOTLE</i>	<i>England & Wales</i>
1926	1·5	0·96
1927	1·5	0·97
1928	1·3	0·93
1929	1·3	0·91
1930	1·3	0·90
1931	1·59	0·89
1932	1·34	0·84
1933	1·50	0·82
1934	1·37	0·76
1935	1·17	0·72
1936	1·34	0·69
1937	1·11	0·69
1938	1·05	0·63
1939	1·08	0·58
1940	1·03	0·67
1941	1·62	0·73
1942	1·37	0·65
1943	1·28	0·67
1944	1·14	0·63
1945	1·01	0·62
1946	1·20	0·55
1947	0·92	0·55
1948	0·92	0·51
1949	1·04	0·45
1950	0·88	0·36
1951	0·54	0·31
1952	0·53	0·24
1953	0·29	0·20
1954	0·27	0·18
1955	0·23	0·15
1956	0·11	0·12

Section X

VENEREAL DISEASES

The treatment of Venereal Disease became the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board as from 5th July, 1948.

The Annual Statistical Report of the Medical Officer of the Treatment Centres shows 131 persons under treatment on 31st December, 1956, as against 82 on 1st January, 1956, and a decrease in new cases, the figure being 234, as contrasted with 278 in 1955. The total of 234 included 120 cases in which the diagnosis of venereal disease was not established.

The total attendances for treatment made at the Centre during the year showed a decrease from 1,556 to 1,248. During 1956, 179 cases were discharged on completion of treatment and observation, as against 243 in the previous year.

The following table is a statement of the number of cases presenting themselves for treatment during the last six years:—

BOOTLE VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
New Cases (total)	400	330	311	306	278	234
New Cases (syphilis)	54	48	16	14	14	13
New Cases (gonorrhoea)	166	113	52	37	38	35
Total Attendances (excluding intermediate treatment)	4592	4157	2922	2222	1525	1248
Attendances for intermediate treatment	182	265	17	—	31	—
No. discharged after completion of observation and treatment ...	195	331	363	314	243	179
No. who ceased to attend after completion of treatment, but before final tests as to cure ...	25	18	26	22	—	—
No. not completing treatment and/or observation	—	—	—	—	50	17

Bootle residents accounted for 25·6% of the new cases under treatment at the Bootle Hospital Centre. Authorities contributing the remaining cases being:—Lancashire C.C., 23·5%; Liverpool, 23·9%; and Others, 27%.

The follow-up of defaulters is undertaken by a health visitor (for females) and a sanitary inspector (for males) and every effort is made to persuade them to continue treatment at the Clinic.

Section XI

BLIND WELFARE

The administration of the Council's Blind Welfare Scheme is the responsibility of the Social Services Committee.

The Medical Officer is indebted to the Social Services Officer for the information in Part A of the following statement:—

A. FOLLOW-UP OF REGISTERED BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED PERSONS

	Cause of Disability			
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	Others
(i) Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which para. 7(c) of Form B.D.8 recommends:—				
(a) No treatment	18	1	—	15
(b) Treatment (medical, surgical or optical)	10	1	—	4
(ii) Number of cases at (i) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment	2	1	—	2

Total Number of Forms B.D.8 received during the year.—39, but 10 of these cases appear twice in the above table as the patients were suffering from a double disability.

The following are the numbers of Blind and Partially-Sighted Persons on the registers at 31st December, 1956:—

Blind Register:—

	Males	Females	Total
Adults	83	116	199
Children	—	2	2
Total	83	118	201

Partially-Sighted Register:—

	Males	Females	Total
Adults	27	66	93
Children	3	3	6
Total	30	69	99

B. OPTHALMIA NEONATORUM

(i) Total number of cases notified during the year Nil

Section XII

EPILEPSY AND CEREBRAL PALSY

Epilepsy

It is difficult to assess the incidence of epilepsy as the condition is not notifiable, but the following statistics have been supplied by the Social Services Officer:—

			Males	Females	Total
Domiciliary	...	...	5	6	11
Colony	...	...	6	2	8
Institution	...	...	—	—	—
Total			11	8	19

In addition, the Local Education Department have 3 cases in their records, and these are receiving special educational treatment either at home or in special schools.

Cerebral Palsy

The incidence of this disease is not known completely as it is not notifiable. The Social Services Department have the following cases under supervision:—

			Males	Females	Total
Domiciliary	...	...	3	2	5

while the Education Department have records of 24 cases of whom 5 are receiving special educational treatment, either at home or in special schools.

Facilities available for Handicapped Persons

There are no specific facilities provided by the Health Department for these groups of handicapped persons, and no fixed arrangements have been made with the Social Services Department who have responsibilities to handicapped persons under the National Assistance Act. Each case is judged on its merits and co-ordination with the other health and welfare services is easily obtained.

Section XIII

SANITARY CONDITIONS

This has been a record year in the history of the Borough for the progress made in the Slum Clearance Programme. One Clearance Order and two Compulsory Purchase Orders were made comprising 458 properties housing 1,725 persons.

Altogether, 766 properties housing 3,165 persons have been dealt with since the commencement of the programme.

The Public Health Inspector's Department plays a major part in large slum clearance schemes of this kind, and much hard and uncongenial work is involved for the Inspectors and Clerical Staff concerned, but of all the manifold duties for which the Public Health Inspector is responsible, none gives him greater personal satisfaction than that which results in the improvement of the basic environmental conditions of the people.

Further details of the progress of slum clearance are set out elsewhere in this report.

On the 31st December, certain provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956, came into force. The Act gives local authorities new powers and duties for the prevention of air pollution. The provisions now brought into force deal, among other things, with the installation of new furnaces, the height of chimneys, smoke control areas, pollution from colliery spoil-banks, research and publicity, and the making of building byelaws relating to fuel burning appliances.

Perhaps the most useful provision is that dealing with smoke control areas, or smokeless zones as they were previously called, which enables local authorities to establish smoke control areas, by means of Orders confirmed by the Minister.

There is no doubt that the Council will wish to give serious consideration to the establishment of smoke control areas in the not too-distant future.

The Food and Drugs Act, 1955, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1956, consolidates the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, and the Food and Drugs Amendment Act, 1964, together with certain other enactments amending and supplementing Part V of the said Act of 1938, in relation to slaughterhouses and knackers' yards.

The Food and Drugs Act, 1955, includes certain important changes, among other things, in the procedure for sampling and analysis and gives power to the Minister for the making of Regulations in connection with food hygiene. As a result, the new Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, came into force later in the year.

These Regulations lay down requirements in respect of the cleanliness of food premises and of apparatus and equipment; the hygienic handling of food; the cleanliness of persons engaged in the handling of food and of their clothing, and the action to be taken where they suffer from, or are carriers of, certain infections; the construction of food premises, the repair and maintenance of food premises, stalls, vehicles, etc.; and the facilities to be provided, and the temperature at which certain foods that are particularly liable to transmit disease are to be kept in food premises.

Food premises of all types have been visited by the Inspectors and the requirements of the Regulations have been explained to food traders and food handlers. Recommendations have been made to food traders as to how they may comply with the Regulations with the least inconvenience and expense. Generally speaking, it has been possible to enlist the willing co-operation of all concerned.

There were 3,854 complaints from householders and notices were served in respect of 6,927 nuisances, a decrease of 83 nuisances on the previous year, but the number of complaints increased by 143.

The value of carrying out "work in default" under the terms of the relevant sections of the Public Health Act, 1936, and the Bootle Corporation Act, cannot be too often stressed, as the slow process of instituting legal proceedings is obviated, and conditions inimical to health are speedily removed. That owners have confidence in the way the Inspectors supervise work carried out on their properties is indicated by the number of requests that are received for the Corporation to execute work on their behalf.

The prevention of the spread of infectious disease, and the supervision of premises used for the manufacture and for the sale of ice cream have been given particular attention, also the enforcement of the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act relating to adulteration and misrepresentation of foodstuffs, inspection of cases of overcrowding, canal boats and other special duties occurring from time to time.

SANITARY, FOOD AND HOUSING INSPECTIONS, 1956

	<i>Visits or Inspections</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Nui- sances Found</i>	<i>Notices Abated</i>	<i>Notices Out- standing</i>
SANITARY COMPLAINTS:—					
Special Complaints investigated	3,854	4,573	6,927	4,023	550
Houses inspected and re-inspected	14,028	—	—	—	—
ROUTINE INSPECTIONS:—					
Inspection of Bakehouses ...	399	9	25	6	3
„ „ butchers shops ...	506	58	250	45	13
„ „ dining rooms (in- cluding cafes, res- taurants and can- teens) ...	234	26	191	21	5
„ „ cold stores ...	7	—	—	—	—
„ „ dairies ...	212	—	—	—	—
„ „ fishmongers ...	14	1	5	1	—
„ „ fish and chip shops	97	2	8	2	—
„ „ food factories ...	570	14	46	9	5
„ „ fruiterers shops ...	53	12	20	9	3
„ „ grocers shops ...	200	8	25	3	5
„ „ ice cream premises	216	4	13	4	—
„ „ ice cream hawkers	20	—	—	—	—
„ „ licensed premises (public houses)...	75	6	16	—	6
„ „ milk shops ...	122	—	—	—	—
„ „ piggeries ...	13	—	—	—	—
„ „ other shop premises	201	6	16	4	2
„ „ canal boats ...	30	10	11	7	3
„ „ schools (kitchens)	136	—	—	—	—
„ „ stables ...	21	—	—	—	—
„ „ vacant land ...	8	—	—	—	—
FACTORIES ACT:—					
Inspection of factories (mechanical)	866	} 35	75	33	2
„ „ „ (non-mec.)	146				
„ „ outworkers' prem.	19				

SPECIAL INSPECTIONS:—

Observations for atmospheric pollution ...	} 88
General smoke observations	
Housing applications — over- crowding ...	109
Inspection of Corporation houses, voids, etc. ...	290
Visits—issue of habitation cert.	277
Inspections of applications <i>re</i> housing ...	927
Fumigation of verminous h'ses	85
Treatment of furniture by hydro- cyanic acid prior to occupa- tion of Corporation houses ...	106
Investigation of infectious di- sease ...	75
Re-visits infected houses	61
Contacts infectious disease ...	20
Disinfections carried out after infectious disease ...	94
Investigations for food poison- ing ...	15
Specimens obtained for examin.	218
Cockroach infestation ...	145
Drain Testing ...	149

MISCELLANEOUS INSPECTIONS AND

VISITS:—	
Animals—keeping of ...	20
Aged and infirm persons, enquiries ...	2
Exhumations ...	1
Interviews with owners, con- tractors, etc. ...	884
Nurseries ...	1
Poultry Stores ...	11
Parks ...	18
Public Conveniences ...	1,302
Pet Stores ...	32
Rag and bone dealers ...	2
Rag Flock premises ...	4
Second-hand furniture stores ...	4
Storage for ice-cream vehicles ...	—
Other miscellaneous visits and inspections ...	412
PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949:	
Complaints investigated ...	97
Premises inspected ...	113
Premises infested ...	73
Visits <i>re</i> insects ...	77
HOUSING SURVEYS:—	
Houses measured for permitted	—

Public Health Act, 1936**SUMMARY OF NUISANCES**

Choked/defective drains	...	...	...	...	...	412
„ „ rainwater pipes	...	...	...	...	...	768
„ „ wastepipes	...	...	...	...	...	206
Defective water closets	...	...	...	...	...	1270
„ house roofs	...	...	...	...	...	719
Defects in domestic water supply	...	...	...	...	...	346
Defective yard surfaces	...	...	...	...	...	148
Dampness in dwellings...	...	...	...	...	...	480
Defective plasterwork wall/ceiling	...	...	...	...	...	698
Defective windows	...	...	...	...	...	481
Other defects	...	...	...	...	...	1399
Total						6927
Nuisances abated by owners						6840
Nuisances abated by Corporation (Default/Request)						415
Total						*7255

*Includes nuisances outstanding from previous year.

Food and Drugs Act**SAMPLES SUBMITTED FOR EXAMINATION**

Milk for analysis	...	...	...	...	...	112
Other food for analysis	...	...	...	...	...	90
Milk for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	...	271
Milk for Heat Treatment—Phosphatase Test/Turbidity	...	...	...	...	...	262
Ice Cream for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	...	148
Specials for bacteriological and chemical examinations	...	...	...	...	...	14

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1926

Samples of fertilisers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Samples of feeding stuffs	...	...	...	...	...	12
						15

Specimens of faeces obtained from contacts for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	...	218
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Sampling is carried out regularly, and visits are made to shops, food factories, milk premises and ice-cream distributors throughout the Borough.

The Public Analyst, Mr. J. F. Clark, M.Sc., F.R.I.C., examined 202 food and drugs samples during the year, of which 55 were statutory and 147 informal. Common foods have been sampled regularly, and special samples have been taken of suspected foods.

A total of 10 samples contravened Acts and Regulations, and included :

1 Marzipan	1 Soup Mixture
1 Chocolate Drops	2 Milk Flavouring
1 Split Peas	2 Milk
2 Sausages	

There was a slight increase in the number of irregularities compared to the previous year.

More attention is now being directed to the labelling of foodstuffs and also to ensuring that the individual retailer is taking care to preserve the soundness of his stocks.

In addition to the 202 routine samples submitted for analysis and examination, there were 14 special samples obtained, which were subjected to chemical analysis or bacteriological examination.

Samples totalling 427 were submitted to Professor D. T. Robinson, the Bacteriologist of the Public Health Laboratory Service.

The samples submitted during 1956 included the following:—

Informal Samples		ARTICLE	Statutory Samples		Cautious	Prosecutions				
Obtained	Adulterated or Sub-standard		Obtained	Adulterated		Summoned	Fined	Withdrawn or dismissed	Amount of fines	Amount of costs to be paid
									£ s. d.	£ s. d.
—	—	Almonds	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	Aspirin Tablets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	—	Butter/Peanut Butter ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	Balsom	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	Confectionery (cakes, biscuits, puddings) ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	Condensed Milk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	Canned Fruits, Soups ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	Coffee	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	Cream	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	2	Dried Fruits and Vegetables (1) (2)	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	Flour	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	1	Flavourings (3) (4) ...	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	Grey Powder	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8	—	Ice Cream	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	Jellies	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	Lard	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	Margarine	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
86	2	Milk (5) (6)	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	Marzipan (7)	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	Malt Bread	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	Olive Oil	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	—	Potted Pastes (meat, fish)	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	—	Preserves	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	Pies (Pork Meat)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	Rennet	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	Rum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	—	Spices	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	Salts (Epsom, etc.) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	Suet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	—	Sauces	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	Sweets (8)	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	Sausages, Pork/Beef (9) (10)	5	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
3	—	Soft Drinks	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	Tea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	Throat Pastilles	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	Vinegar (non-brewed)...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
147	5		55	5	7	—	—	—	—	—

NOTES: (1) *Dried Peas*—Informal Sample—slightly insect damaged. 4% damaged by insects. Sample obtained from mobile shop. Caution, and mobile shop cleared of all commodities and cleansed.

NOTES—continued—

- (2) *Dried Soup Mixture*—Informal Sample. A mixture containing Barley, Split Peas and Lentils. Sago, Rice and Haricot Beans included in list of ingredients on label but not present in sample. Caution issued.
- (3) and (4) *Milk Flavouring Flip*—Informal and Formal Samples. Contained Preservative, Benzoic Acid 100 and 300 parts per million respectively. Flavouring compositions are not articles of food which may contain preservative. Caution. Manufacturers notified and manufacturers' analysts communicated with, who have advised manufacturer to change label.
- (5) and (6) *Milk*—Informal Samples.
 - A. Milk containing added water. Milk Fat 4·20%; other solids 8·00%. Contained 5% of added water.
 - B. Rich milk slightly watered. Milk Fat 4·85%; Other solids 8·35%. These samples were taken at a pasteurising plant from farmers bulk supplies on delivery to the plant. Formal samples proved satisfactory.
- (7) *Marzipan*—Formal Sample. Nut Paste deficient in nut and incorrectly labelled. Total nut 8%. Marzipan and such nut pastes should contain not less than 25% of nut, and should bear a label specifying ingredients. Reported to Health Committee and Caution issued to manufacturer.
- (8) *Chocolate Drops*—Formal Sample. Misleading label. Chocolate 10%. Sample consisted of chocolate-flavoured tablets. Labels now changed.
- (9) and (10) *Beef Sausage/Pork Sausage*—Formal Samples. Contained an undeclared preservative 280 and 260 parts per million respectively. Retailers cautioned and labels placed in shop declaring preservative.

Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations

The Public Analyst examined 158 samples submitted for evidence of preservatives.

Milk

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1952, made by the Ministry of Food came into operation on the 1st November, 1952, Accordingly, from the appointed date all milk sold by retail within the area must be specially designated milk, that is, pasteurised milk, sterilised milk or tuberculin tested milk. The County Borough of Bootle has been included in one of the specified areas.

Milk Supplies.—There are 159 registered distributors of milk on the Bootle Register, and 251 licences were issued under the appropriate Special Designation Regulations, 1949 to 1953.

There are no farms or shippons situated within the Borough boundaries.

There has been no infectious disease or food poisoning outbreak traced to the supply of milk within the Borough.

Milk Shops and Dairies

There are 133 milk shops and 8 dairies selling bottled milk, all of which have licences under the regulations.

During the year 334 inspections were made of these premises and a satisfactory standard of cleanliness was maintained.

There is only one pasteurising plant in the Borough which deals with 1,800 gallons of milk daily.

During the year 148 samples of milk were taken at this plant and submitted to the bacteriologist for appropriate tests. One of these samples failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test; the average shade temperature was 65°; all samples passed the Phosphatase Test. This firm supplies 33 schools in the Borough with 400 gallons daily.

Milk Sampling

There have been 271 samples of milk submitted for the Methylene Blue Test and 262 for the Phosphatase and Turbidity Tests to indicate the amount of heat treatment to which the milk has been subjected. 4 failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue Test and all passed the Phosphatase Test. In three of the samples which failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test the average shade temperature was more than 65 degrees. The remaining one sample failing to pass the Methylene Blue Test was obtained from a local school supplied from the pasteurising plant in the Borough.

9 samples of raw milk were examined for bacilli tuberculosis, the results being negative.

Hospital: Milk Supply.—Milk sampling is carried out periodically at Bootle Hospital, and 27 samples were taken during the year. 9 were submitted for chemical analysis, and 18 for bacteriological examination. The former satisfied all legal standards, and the latter satisfied the Methylene Blue and the Phosphatase Tests.

School Milk.—There were 46 samples of milk obtained from schools for bacteriological examination and 3 failed the Methylene Blue Test and 2 of these were taken when Average Shade Temperature was more than 65°. There were 38 samples submitted for chemical analysis, and all were satisfactory.

Ice Cream

Nine samples of ice cream were submitted for chemical analysis, with the following results:—

Sample Number		Fat Content per cent.		Other Solids per cent.		Sugar content
1	...	12.0	...	11.0	...	13.0
2	...	11.1	...	9.5	...	13.5
3	...	12.3	...	10.5	...	13.0
4	...	10.5	...	9.7	...	13.5
5	...	12.3	...	10.5	...	13.5
6	...	12.0	...	11.3	...	14.0
7	...	10.5	...	10.5	...	13.5
8	...	8.8	...	8.5	...	12.5
9	...	11.2	...	10.5	...	14.0
Averages		11.18	...	10.22	...	13.38

There were 154 ice cream premises registered, but only 10 have been registered for manufacture. Of these, only 4 are actually manufacturing, 1 is on a "Complete Cold Mix," and the other 5 obtain and sell supplies from wholesalers.

138 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, results being as follows:—Grade 1, 97; Grade 2, 27; Grade 3, 6; Grade 4, 8.

10 Samples of water ices were taken for bacteriological examination. No pathogenic organisms were found in any of the samples. In 9, Coliform was absent in 1 ml. and in 1 sample Coliform was present in 1 ml.

Colony counts were absent in 8 samples; 57 per ml. in one sample, and more than 3,000 per ml. in one sample.

Persons selling ice cream from vehicles are required to be registered in accordance with the Bootle Corporation Act, 1930. The vehicles are inspected before licensing, together with the washing arrangements and the premises where ice cream is stored at the end of the day. Where a vendor is living in the area of another authority, a report is obtained as to the suitability of the person applying for registration and of his premises.

Unsound Food—Condemned

The following foodstuffs were surrendered voluntarily:—

Total weight, 4 tons 6 cwts. 2 qrs. 9½ lbs.

Meat (raw).—Beef, Lamb, Pork, Trimmings—Total raw meat, 535 lbs.

Meat (tinned).—Hams, Luncheon meats, Corned Beef, Assorted tinned meats.—Total canned meat, 3,719½ lbs.

Fruit, etc. (canned).—Vegetables, Tinned fruit, Rhubarb, Peas, Carrots.—Total canned fruit, 3,955 lbs.

Fish (raw).—5 lbs.

Fish (canned).—87 lbs.

Milk (canned).—393 lbs.

Other Foods (raw and canned).—Soup, Pudding mixtures, Jam, Cereals, Sweets, Barley, Cheese, Cocoanut, Flour, Eggs (shell).—Total, 1,003 lbs.

All condemned food is destroyed by burning at the Corporation's incinerator.

Prosecutions

There were four prosecutions under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The first case concerned the selling of a sweet containing a metal screw. A fine of £5 was imposed.

The second case concerned a fly in a bottle of milk. Defendant pleaded guilty and a fine of £2 was imposed.

The third case concerned the selling of a lollipop containing a fly. A fine of £3 was imposed, and costs amounting to £3 3s. 0d. awarded.

The fourth case concerned the selling of cheese which had been gnawed by mice. A fine of 30s. was imposed.

Registration of Food Preparation Premises

Premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, total 93, including those used for the preparation of sausages, potted or preserved meat, fish or other foods, certain butcher's shops and food factories. There were 1,002 inspections made of these premises, and the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and Regulations were applied.

Bakehouses

There are 20 bakehouses registered within the Borough. During the year 1 was deleted, 1 new bakery was added and there was a change of occupier in each of 6 other bakehouses.

The yearly visits of inspection and re-inspection amounted to 399, and 9 notices in respect of 25 defects were served.

The standard of hygiene in bakehouses is generally good and the requirements of the new Food Hygiene Regulations have been anticipated in many of them. Several of the older buildings are being modernised, walls and floors are being tiled, and it has been noted that these improvements encourage employees to improve their own standards of cleanliness and to take greater care in the handling of food. Frequent visits of inspection play a very important part in the maintenance and improvement

of bakehouse hygiene, and the unexpected visit by the Inspector has a beneficial effect upon the discipline and care required of all food handlers.

A large bakehouse set in rural surroundings experienced a serious infestation of birds in the bakery rooms. Although the building has had all possible means of entry closed with wire guards, the problem is not yet completely solved as some birds still enter when doors are unavoidably opened. In the meantime, special wire cages have been placed around vulnerable processes in the bakery and all possible steps are being taken to protect food products from contamination.

List of Defects:—

Uneven or unsuitable floor finishes	...	...	3
Defective ceilings	...	...	4
Unsuitable wall finishes	...	...	4
Absence of wash-hand basin	...	...	1
Absence of suitable sinks	...	...	1
Want of cleanliness	...	...	1
Unsuitable and worn equipment	...	...	3
Ineffective protection to open foods	...	...	1
Inadequate storage facilities for food stocks	...	...	1
Defective sanitary conveniences	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	4
			25

Basement Bakehouses

Certificates of suitability under the provisions of Section 54 of the Factories Act, 1937, are in operation in respect of the 2 basement bakehouses in the Borough. Some 38 visits of inspection and re-inspection were made during the year and it was not necessary to issue any notices in respect of defects.

Food Factories

There were 35 food factories in the Borough at the commencement of the year, but during the year four were discontinued and two new ones opened.

Altogether, 570 visits of inspection and re-inspection have been made, and in 14 cases notices were served in respect of 46 defects which have since been remedied.

Frequent visits of inspection are necessary to achieve and maintain a good standard of hygiene in food handling. Many factory managers welcome these visits which help to strengthen staff discipline in these matters.

Booklets giving a synopsis of the new Food Hygiene Regulations have been distributed to these premises and they have been most useful in creating an interest and understanding of the Regulations' requirements among food staffs.

During the year, the improvement and modernisation of old factory buildings continued. Factory managements are conscious of the help and advice available to them when any extension of premises or change of process is contemplated.

Many meetings have been held to discuss the best layout for new projects and full specifications of work have been drawn up for several premises which included a proposed ham boiling plant, a frozen liquid egg plant and a new meat-processing room.

A large flour mill was fumigated with H.C.N. during the year.

It must always be borne in mind, however, that the public's demand for safe as well as nutritious food is the best defence of all against outbreaks of food-borne diseases.

List of Defects:—

Uneven or unsuitable floor finishes	...	4
Defective ceilings	... ..	4
Unsuitable wall finishes	... ..	8
Absence of wash-hand basin	... ..	3
Absence of suitable sinks	... ..	6
Want of cleanliness	... ..	3
Absence of first-aid equipment	... ..	2
Clean overalls and head coverings not provided	... ..	3
Defective sanitary conveniences	... ..	3
Miscellaneous	... ..	10
TOTAL	... ..	*46

*All these defects have since been remedied.

Fish and Chip Shops

During the year 97 visits were made to the 36 fish and chip shops in the Borough, and 2 notices were served in respect of 8 items.

Food Premises

The following is a brief summary of the nature of the food premises within the Borough :—

Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	63
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	8
Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	127
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	146
Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	62
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	27
Sweets	...	...	...	...	...	89
Fish and Chips	...	...	...	...	...	38
Dining Rooms and Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	32
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	16
Other Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	56
Food Factories	...	...	...	...	...	35
						699

A survey was made of all butchers' shops and the following is an extract from a report based on the survey:—

Total number in Borough	...	...	...	63
Total number of visits	...	...	...	506
Total number of Notices served		...	...	58
Total number of Notices abated		...	...	45
Total number of defects found	...	...	...	250

Defects remedied by Notice:—

(i)	Impervious floors provided	...	...	22
(ii)	Washbasins with h/c water	...	...	34
(iii)	Sinks with h/c water	...	...	3
(iv)	Shops provided with cloakroom accommodation	...	...	33
(v)	Premises decorated	...	...	25
(vi)	Shops provided with first-aid materials	...	...	40
(vii)	Shops provided with impervious counters, shelves, etc....	...	...	25
(viii)	Wall dadoes stripped and tiles	...	...	17
(ix)	Shops where repairs to floors, plaster-work, woodwork, w.c.'s, etc., carried out	...	...	40

Of the total number of butchers' shops, 4 are included in Clearance Areas, and 5 are newly built in which all the necessary requirements are incorporated.

It was found necessary, from time to time, to give advice or, in some cases, warnings regarding the general standard of cleanliness, and of the storing and depositing of articles not necessary to the business.

Cafes and Canteens

There are 27 cafes and 26 works' canteens within the Borough to which 234 visits of inspection and re-inspection were made during the year. In 26 cases, it was necessary to serve notices in respect of 191 defects, which have either since been remedied or are in the course of completion.

A great amount of work has been done to improve catering premises and to raise the standard of hygiene in the handling and preparation of food.

The implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, which came into operation during the year, has had a marked effect upon all catering premises and especially in factory canteens which were outside the scope of previous legislation.

Two cafes which had existed in unsuitable accommodation have been able to comply with all the requirements of the Regulations by extending their businesses to other rooms on the premises, but two others that could not be made satisfactory were closed by the proprietors.

Works' canteens comprise the major part of the catering trade within the Borough. The large canteens cater for 100 to 2,000 persons daily. They are very well equipped and planned and are staffed by experienced personnel. Nevertheless, it was necessary to carry out structural improvements which involved the resurfacing of walls and floors with tiles or other suitable finishes, and the provision of extra dining accommodation. Additional hand-washing basins were fixed to ensure that they were easily accessible from every part of the kitchens and preparation rooms, so that the staff would find no difficulty in using them frequently. The cleansing and sterilization of crockery has received special attention during the year. In some instances, sterilizing sink units have been installed and the use of boiling water or bacteriacidal detergents for dish washing is now general.

Full specifications of works were drawn up for the reconditioning and re-planning of two canteens during the year. This resulted in one being completely rebuilt and the other was in process of being rebuilt at the close of the year.

**List of Defects:—*

Uneven or unsuitable floor finishes	...	...	26
Defective ceilings	...	...	15
Unsuitable wall finishes	...	...	30
Absence of wash-hand basins	...	...	12
Absence of suitable sinks...	...	...	10
Want of cleanliness	...	...	18
Lack of efficient ventilation	...	...	7
Unsuitable methods of dishwashing	...	...	15
Absence of first-aid equipment	...	...	5
Unsuitable and worn equipment	...	...	25
Ineffective protection to open foods	...	...	6
Drainage of floors...	...	...	2
Clean overalls and head coverings not provided			5
No proper provision for storage of outdoor clothing, etc.	...	...	3
Inadequate storage facilities for food stocks	...	...	3
Defective sanitary conveniences	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	6
TOTAL	...	...	191

*All these defects have since been remedied.

Factories

There are 288 factories entered in the factory register for the year as follows:—

Factories that have mechanical power	...	...	221
Factories without mechanical power	...	...	41
Factories which are within the scope of S.103, S.107 and S.108 of the Factories Act, 1937...			26

During the year 8 factories have been deleted from the register and 14 have been added.

A total number of 1,057 visits of inspection and re-inspection were made, and in 35 cases it was necessary to serve notices concerning contraventions of the Factories Act, 1937.

List of Defects:—

	Found	*Abated
Want of cleanliness	5	4
Insufficient w.c. accommodation...	9	9
Unsuitable w.c. accommodation...	52	48
Miscellaneous	9	9
	75	70

*The number of defects abated includes defects outstanding from previous year.

Excessive noise and vibration from industrial premises during unreasonable hours often causes considerable discomfort to neighbouring householders and may be inimical to their health. Several complaints of this nature have been investigated during the year. In some cases the identification of the noise or the source of the vibration has been difficult to trace and visits had to be made during the night. It has been found that this type of nuisance is often caused by the thoughtlessness of employees working on night shift or by unnecessarily noisy machinery. In this connection, factory managements have proved most co-operative and after consultation and experiment a remedy has been found in every case. In one instance, night work on a particularly noisy process was discontinued altogether.

Plans of new factories and other buildings are examined jointly with the appropriate officers of the Borough Engineer's Department; when necessary amendments are recommended before the plans are considered for approval by the Committee.

It is pleasing to record that the Chief Public Health Inspector receives every possible co-operation and assistance from the Housing Architect, Town Planning Officer, Chief Building Inspector and other officers of the Borough Engineer's Department. It is co-operation of this kind that facilitates this type of routine work which is so important to the respective departments.

Outworkers

At the beginning of the year, there were 2 outworkers on the register. There were 14 new registrations during the year and 19 visits of inspection were made. At the end of the year, 11 outworkers were registered, 5 having been discontinued during the year.

Workplaces and Offices

There are 284 workplaces and offices entered in the register. During the year a new cinema and several new offices were opened. The ten banks in the Borough were also visited and found to be satisfactory.

Visits of inspection amounted to 198 in the year and 6 Notices were served in respect of 8 defects which have since been remedied.

Premises requiring suitable means of ventilation	2
Insufficient sanitary conveniences	1
Unsuitable and defective sanitary conveniences	1
Premises requiring drainage of floors	2
Miscellaneous	2

Representatives of M.A.N.W.E.B. asked for some advice to improve the ventilation of an office block situated in an industrial area. After consultation on the site, a suitable method of mechanical ventilation was agreed upon, which has since been installed with satisfactory results.

Offensive Trades

There were 9 offensive trades established within the Borough at the close of the year. Two old established factories, a tannery and a soap boiler, closed down during the year and one new trade was registered.

Altogether, 66 visits of inspection and reinspection were made and there was no evidence of any nuisances arising from the processes carried on.

List of Offensive Trades:—

Rag Sorting	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fellmongers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Soap Boilers	...	...	...	...	...	4
Tripe Boiler	...	...	...	...	...	1

Licensed Premises

During the year 75 visits have been made to the 45 Licensed Premises in the Borough.

The main work in progress relates to the improvement of sanitary accommodation, and also compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, particularly those regulations dealing with the provision of washing and cloakroom facilities.

Additional w.c. accommodation has been provided for females in 7 cases, and for males in 5 cases.

Decoration and general maintenance has continued to be carried out on the rota system adopted by the Brewery Companies. It has, however, been necessary to serve Notices in 3 cases requiring redecoration to be carried out. These Notices related to three of the more popular houses which require more frequent decoration as the ceilings and walls become comparatively quickly discoloured by tobacco smoke.

Compliance with the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, is well in progress but in 3 cases it has been necessary to serve notices requiring wash-hand basins and cloakroom facilities.

16 Notices have been served during the year and include the following items:—

Redecoration	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wash-hand Notices	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wash-hand basins	...	...	...	...	...	3
Provision of mechanical ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	1
Redecoration of male w.c.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cloakrooms	...	...	...	...	...	3
Provision of impervious tops to food tables	...	...	...	...	...	1
Provision of additional hot water supply	...	...	...	...	...	1

Food Byelaws

Clean food byelaws made by the Council on the 3rd January, 1951 came into operation on the 28th May, 1951.

These byelaws were made for the purpose of "securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food sold or intended for sale for human consumption, and in connection with the sale or exposure for sale in the open air of food intended for human consumption."

In general, no great difficulty has been experienced in enforcing the byelaws.

Boottle Corporation Act, 1939—Section 115

It is necessary for any person intending to sell any meat, or meat food product, or fish or fruit or vegetables, from any cart, barrow or other vehicle, to be registered with the Corporation in accordance with the above enactment.

There are 11 persons registered under this Act.

Prior to registration, all mobile shops and similar vehicles are subjected to a careful inspection and advice is given to the applicant on the principles of food hygiene generally.

Slaughterhouses

There are no public or private slaughterhouses within the Borough.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

There are 6 pet shops in the area, for which licences were issued during the year.

Cinemas

The three cinemas in the Borough have been regularly inspected. These inspections are important, for transmission of infection and vermin is difficult to prevent where large numbers of people congregate. Consequently, it is important that sanitary accommodation, ventilation, lighting, cleanliness and structural defects receive immediate attention.

Infectious Disease

There were 75 cases of infectious disease investigated, other than tuberculosis, and disinfections were carried out in 94 cases.

In dealing with outbreaks of food poisoning special investigations were carried out in the homes of food handlers, including the obtaining of specimens of faeces for bacteriological examination, in order to detect any possible carriers of disease in their families.

Infectious disease cases nursed at home were kept under observation, and advice was given as to preventing the spread of infection. Where isolation is found to be impossible, arrangements are made for removal to hospital.

The local authority is responsible for the removal of all cases of infectious disease landed from ships in Bootle Docks.

Water Supply

The Borough of Bootle is supplied with water by Liverpool Corporation, the source being upland surfaces in North Wales and Lancashire. It is wholesome and sufficient for all purposes. Periodical bacteriological examinations are made by the water undertakers and reports submitted to the Medical Officer of Health.

Throughout the year complaints concerning the water supply have been reduced to a minimum by constant co-operation between the inspectors and the Liverpool Corporation Water Department.

Altogether, 346 defects were investigated and these related mainly to waste, or to damage caused by burst pipes.

All dwelling houses within the Borough are supplied with water from the public water mains direct to the houses.

Smoke and Atmospheric Pollution

During the year, certain provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956, came into operation.

Briefly, these provisions deal with the installation of new furnaces, grit and dust emissions from furnaces, height of chimneys (does not apply to buildings to be used as a residence, office or shop), Smoke control areas and colliery spoilbanks.

Unfortunately, one of the most important provisions which prohibits the emission of dark smoke from chimneys is not yet in operation.

The advent of the Clean Air Act has created a new interest in fuel economy in many factories. Provision of instruments in boiler houses and a more scientific approach to the problems of combustion has become evident.

Boiler house staffs have been instructed in the proper methods of firing and most managements now appreciate that to achieve a higher standard of fuel economy, the provision of suitable measuring instruments in boiler houses is necessary.

The Health Committee visited a local factory where an automatic smoke density indicator and recorder had been installed. The Committee were impressed with these instruments and the Chairman expressed the hope that they would be installed in other factory boiler plants in the Borough. These instruments are particularly useful at night and during periods of fog when the chimney top cannot be seen. The device is operated electrically and gives audible and visible warning in the boiler house when excessive smoke is being emitted.

General observations have been made throughout the year and 88 official observations were made. It was necessary to serve notices on persistent offenders on eight occasions.

The causes of smoke emission included inefficient stoking, unsuitable fuel and defective plant.

The use of "smokeless fuels" is encouraged and during the year two large boiler plants have been adapted for the use of oil fuel, with very successful results. In one factory the provision of induced draught to a bank of three Lancashire boilers improved their efficiency, and at the same time reduced the volume of smoke emission. Automatic smoke-density alarms have been installed in three factories and several other firms have placed orders for them. One persistent offender has placed an order for an automatic chain-grate stoker to replace the present inefficient mechanical stoker.

The burning of industrial refuse in factory yards causes a considerable nuisance. This practice has been stopped and three of the offending firms have now installed efficient incinerators for the burning of trade refuse.

The source of grit deposits found on a cinema roof was traced to a nearby boiler plant fed with sprinkler type mechanical stokers using too fine a fuel. The firm's management was advised to change to a more suitable type of fuel, which they did with satisfactory results.

A complaint from householders living near the gas works that excessive grit was being deposited in the area was investigated. The main cause of the nuisance was found to arise from a coke grading plant that was operating without sufficient screens to prevent the fine particles of coke being carried away by the wind. Also, comparing samples of grit collected in the vicinity of nearby houses with grit in the gas works, a contributory cause of the nuisance was found to be a large mound of filtering material containing iron oxide which was being dried and broadcast by the wind. The North Western Gas Board were acquainted with the facts and they promptly closed down the coke grading plant, removed the filtering material to a sheltered part of the works, and the surface of the material is also kept dampened.

Prosecutions for Non-Abatement of Nuisances— Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93

Prosecutions have been reduced to a minimum by personal contact, and also by the Corporation carrying out the work in default, as provided for by statute.

There was one prosecution for the non-abatement of sanitary nuisances during the year.

A penalty of 20/- was imposed and a nuisance order obtained.

Disinfestation

The routine procedure for disinfestation of verminous premises has been maintained. Seven municipal houses and 61 privately owned houses were disinfested with suitable insecticides, and the furniture of 106 dwelling houses was treated with hydrogen cyanide.

The household effects of all persons living in houses which have been dealt with by way of slum clearance are disinfested before removal to new Corporation houses. Previously household effects were treated with cyanide, but this method proved too slow to keep pace with the speed with which the slum clearance programme was proceeding. The present method, which commenced in August, consists of spraying the entire house and its contents with Gammexane before removal. The spraying of the old houses is a precautionary measure to protect the demolition workers from becoming infested with vermin. In addition, the new house is also sprayed to assist in preventing re-infestation, at least for an appreciable time. The cost of treatment and removal is borne by the Corporation.

It is now possible to treat and remove the household effects of 25 to 30 families a week as against 5 families under the old method of cyanide. The advantages of the new method are the elimination of the very real danger to human life; the saving in the actual cost of disinfestation; increased revenue from rents of Corporation houses which would otherwise be left empty for longer periods.

Several follow-up visits have been made in doubtful cases, but no evidence of re-infestation has been found.

The household effects of 98 families and their houses have been treated under the new method.

88 municipal houses, 57 private houses and 2 public baths were treated for cockroach infestation.

Special steps have been taken with regard to certain pests, including ants, bed bugs, house flies and lice. This service has been carried out by the local authority at a nominal fee, the occupiers being only too happy to have the pests removed, and 41 occupiers have paid to have their premises disinfested.

Canal Boats

There were 30 inspections of canal boats on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal within the Borough. Bootle is not a registration authority.

Stables

During the summer months stables can be a source of considerable nuisance, and visits to stables are usually increased during this period. Fly infestation is a serious menace, and the methods now adopted are proving effective. D.D.T. is used for the spraying of stalls. 21 special visits were made to stables.

Exhumations

One exhumation took place during the year.

Swimming Baths

Inspection of swimming baths was carried on throughout the year.

Hairdressers and Barbers

These premises are not compulsorily registered, but the inspectors have visited 52 hairdressers during the year, applying general principles of hygiene and sanitation, usually under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Caravan Dwellings

There are no licensed caravan dwellers situated within the Borough, nor are there any sites for this purpose. Periodical fun fairs visit the parks and one other site, but as they are subject to special exemption, licensing is not required.

From time to time gypsies visit the Borough, but when informed by inspectors that camping is not permitted they have moved away from the Borough.

Rodent Control—The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

There are four permanent rodent operators engaged in carrying out duties under the above mentioned enactment.

The staff are carrying out continuous visitation of all premises in the Borough, and all factors giving rise to infestation are dealt with immediately. Many cases necessitate the taking up of floors, yard surfaces and passages, leading in some cases to extensive drainage repairs and reinstatement.

The systematic treatment of sewers is assisting considerably in the prevention of surface infestation. It has been ascertained by test baiting that there are now many sections of the sewerage system free from infestation.

Systematic inspection of private dwelling houses continued and during the year 2,856 were inspected. 257 were found to be infested with vermin, 86 by rats and 171 by mice. A total of 408 complaints was received from occupiers of dwelling houses.

Inspection of Lands and Buildings.—There were 4,460 inspections of lands and buildings, comprising food shops, retail shops, factories, warehouses, schools, offices and cold stores. One hundred and eighty of these premises were found to be infested, 78 by rats and 102 by mice. The staff treated 147 of these infestations, the remainder being dealt with by servicing companies under the supervision of the rodent operators.

Sewer Treatment.—The sewers have been treated on two occasions, and during April and May, after a ten per cent. test, it was found necessary to treat 1,054 man-holes. In 542 man-holes, infestation by rats was found. During October and November, another treatment was carried out and 1,052 man-holes were treated, revealing signs of infestation in 329 man-holes. A further test has been carried out in the new sewers, which have been laid in the Borough during the year.

Causes of Infestation.—The majority of surface infestations are found in food storage premises, and the rodent operators have concentrated on such premises.

Public Sanitary Conveniences

There are 21 sanitary conveniences under the supervision of the Department; all of these provide for males and four of them make provision also for females.

The public convenience staff consists of 4 men and 2 women, they cleanse every public convenience at least twice a day, and in special cases, three times a day. The conveniences for the use of females are kept open from 7.30 a.m. to 11 p.m. The conveniences for the use of males remain open all day and night.

The inspectors visit the conveniences regularly to supervise the cleansing, and 1302 visits were made during the year.

H O U S I N G

The provision of adequate housing accommodation remains one of the most pressing needs of the Borough. The following information relating to applications for the tenancy of Corporation houses up to 31st December, 1956, has been supplied by the Housing Manager.

No. of applicants living in rooms inside the Borough	...	2793
do. outside do.	...	1107
Total No. of applicants living in rooms	...	3900
No. of applicants who are householders inside the Borough	...	1212
No. of applicants who are householders outside the Borough	...	368
Total No. of applicants who are householders	...	1580
Total No. of applicants	...	5480

The total number of applicants on the waiting list increased during 1956 by 332, the total at the end of 1955 being 5,148.

The Borough Engineer has supplied the following information relating to houses erected during the year:—

Houses erected by Local Authority:—

One Bedroom	...	38
Two Bedroom	...	216
Three Bedroom	...	498
Four Bedroom	...	42
		794

Houses erected by other bodies and persons:—

Three Bedroom dwellings	...	10
Two Bedroom Flat over shop	...	1
		11

Houses erected by other Local Authorities ... Nil

Number of houses demolished during the year:—

(a) by Local Authority:—			} Derby Road Clearance Area No. 2 Derby Road No. 3
75 dwellings	...		
2 shops with dwelling accommodation over	...		
37 dwellings	...		
(b) By other bodies or persons	...	30	

Slum Clearance

Progress with the slum clearance programme continued throughout the year.

SUMMARY OF SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRESS

	<i>No. of C.O.'s</i>	<i>No. of C.P.O.'s</i>	<i>No. of dwelling- houses</i>	<i>No. of persons to be displaced</i>	<i>No. of persons displaced</i>	<i>No. of houses demolished</i>
1951 ...	1	—	33	189	—	—
1952 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
1953 ...	—	1	83	383	292	33
1954 ...	—	1	70	294	222	12
1955 ...	5	1	122	574	258	68
1956 ...	1	2	458	1725	654	134
TOTALS	7	5	766	3165	1426	247

One Clearance Order and two Compulsory Purchase Orders were made during the year, as follows:—

<i>Area</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Population</i>
The Bootle (Marsh Lane Housing No. 1) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1956	156	572
The Bootle (Marsh Lane Housing No. 2) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1956	287	1,056
The Bootle (Derby Road No. 5) Clearance Order, 1956	15	97
TOTALS	458	1,725

Informal action was taken in respect of Individual Unfit Houses as follows:—

Number of Individual Unfit Houses demolished	5
Number of Persons rehoused	17
Number of Families rehoused	4

Several objections were made against the Bootle (Marsh Lane Housing No. 1) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1956, and the Minister accordingly held a Public Inquiry at the Town Hall, where the objections were heard. The Order was subsequently confirmed by the Minister without modification.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

The above Act, which came into operation on the 30th August, 1954, makes “ further provision for the clearance and re-development of areas of unfit housing accommodation, and for securing or promoting the reconditioning and maintenance of houses ; and otherwise to amend the enactments relating to housing, the exercise of certain powers relating to land, and rent control.”

Under Section 1 of the Act, every local authority is required to submit proposals to the Minister for dealing with houses within the district of the authority which appear to be unfit for human habitation.

Accordingly, a survey of the Borough was carried out and a report submitted to the Council of the number of unfit properties in the area, including recommendations as to the best method of dealing with the houses. Subsequently, the Council submitted proposals to the Minister which were approved without modification.

The Act also enables landlords whose property is in good condition to claim a repairs increase on the rent. The condition of the house may, however, be disputed by the tenant who can apply to the local authority for a “certificate of disrepair.” Altogether, 26 applications for certificates of disrepair were received and granted. 16 applications for revocations of certificates were received, 12 of which were granted, the remainder were under consideration at the end of the year.

Housing Act, 1936, Part IV—Overcrowding

During the year 41 houses were found to be overcrowded. Exceptional cases were recommended for priority re-housing.

Special Applications for Re-Housing

During the year, 109 reports were made for consideration by the Medical Officer of Health in connection with applications for priority in re-housing. Besides being overcrowded, many cases had a record of chronic infection or other serious illness.

Municipal Houses

On a change of tenancy, all municipal houses are inspected, and during the year 927 houses have been so visited. Of these, 290 were vacant at the time of visit and 277 habitation certificates were issued after treatment or repair of the premises.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1956.—CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under One Year
Small-pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken-pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Croup ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (other forms) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Intracranial Haemorrhage ...	2	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3
Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	2	—	—	—	2	2	3	—	—	8
Enteritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Other Digestive Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accident ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury ...	7	1	—	—	9	2	1	1	—	13
Premature Birth ...	19	—	—	—	19	—	—	—	—	19
Other Causes ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	3
TOTALS ...	31	1	—	2	34	7	10	3	—	54

INDEX

	PAGE		PAGE
A		E	
Ante-Natal Clinics ...	15, 19	Diphtheria Immunisation ...	3, 21, 22
Ambulance Service ...	4, 23	Domestic Help Service ...	25
Area of Borough ...	8	Duly Authorised Officers ...	26
Area Comparability Factors ...	8	Dining Rooms, Cafes, etc. ...	55
Atmospheric Pollution ...	43, 61	Disinfestation ...	63
B		F	
Bakehouses ...	52	Factories ...	57
B.C.G. Vaccination ...	24	Fish and Chip Shops ...	54
Births ...	3, 8, 9, 10, 14	Food and Drugs Acts ...	43, 46
Births, Illegitimate ...	10	Food Condemned ...	51
Blind Welfare ...	41	Food Poisoning ...	32
C		Food Preparation Premises ...	44, 52
Cafes and Dining Rooms ...	55	Foreword ...	3
Canteens ...	56	G	
Caravan Dwellings ...	64	Gas and Air Analgesia ...	19
Canal Boats ...	44, 64	General Rate ...	8
Cancer ...	12	H	
Care of Mothers and Young Children ...	14	Hairdressers ...	64
Cerebral Palsy ...	42	Handicapped Persons ...	42
Chest Clinic ...	34	Health Committee ...	5
Cinemas ...	60	Health Education ...	25
Clean Air Act, 1956 ...	43	Health Services, Cost of ...	8
Committee, Constitution of ...	5	Health Visiting ...	19
Communicable Diseases ...	4, 12, 32, 60	Home Nursing Service ...	20
Comparison of Statistics ...	9	Houses Inhabited ...	8
Convalescent Home Provision ...	17, 18, 25	Houses Uninhabited ...	8
Cost of Health Services ...	8	Housing ...	65, 67
D		I	
Death Rate ...	3, 8, 10, 11	Ice Cream ...	50
Deaths, Causes of ...	12, 70	Illegitimate Births ...	10
Deaths, Infant ...	12, 67	Illegitimate Children, Care of ...	17
Deaths in Institutions ...	10	Immunisation ...	3, 21, 22
Deaths from Respiratory Diseases ...	12	Infant Mortality ...	3, 8, 12, 13, 71
Deaths from Tuberculosis (all forms) ...	8	Infant Welfare Clinics ...	15
Deaths from Tuberculosis (Respiratory) ...	8	Inspections, Sanitary ...	45
Deaths, Total ...	8, 11	Inhabited Houses ...	8
Dental Treatment ...	31	Inquests ...	13
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), Deaths from ...	8		

INDEX—continued

	PAGE		PAGE
L		Respiratory Diseases, Deaths from 8, 12	
Licensed Premises	59	Rodent Control	65
Live Births	8	S	
Liverpool Child Welfare Association	18	Sanitary Conditions	43
M		Sickroom Equipment on Loan	24
Mass Miniature Radiography ...3,	35	Slaughterhouses	60
Marriages	9	Slum Clearance	4, 43, 68
Maternal Mortality	8, 13	Smoke Nuisance	61
Medical Aid... ..	19	Stables	64
Mental Health Service	24, 26	Staff	6
Midwives—Transport	19	Statistics, Comparison of	9
Milk	49	Statistics, Vital	8
Municipal Midwifery Service ...3,	18	Stillbirths	8
N		Swimming Baths	64
Neo-natal Mortality	12	T	
Notification of Births	14	Tuberculosis	24, 33
Nuisances	46	Tuberculosis—Mortality 3, 8, 33,	39
Nursing Requisites on Loan	24	Tuberculosis—Non-Pulmonary	34
O		Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	8, 33
Occupation Centre for Mental Defectives	24, 28	U	
Offensive Trades	59	Uninhabited Houses	8
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	15, 42	Unmarried Mothers	17
Outworkers	58	Unsound Food Condemned	51
P		V	
Pet Animals Act	60	Vaccination	4, 21
Poliomyelitis	4	Venereal Disease	40
Population	8, 9	Vermin Infestation	63
Post-Natal Clinics	15	Vital Statistics	8
Premature Infants	3, 14	W	
Prevention of Illness (Care and After-Care)	24	Water Supply	61
Problem Families	16	Welfare Foods	16
Product of Penny Rate	8	Whooping Cough, Deaths from	8
Public Conveniences	66	" " Inoculation 4, 23	
Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 34		Women's Club	16
R		Workplaces, Inspection	58
Rate, General	8		
Rateable Value	8		

